PALESTINE POLICE OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER

No. 158 PUBLISHED QUARTERLY MARCH 1990

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SPECIAL NOTE

To all Branch Secretaries and other contributors:

Material for the June 1990 issue of the News Letter should be in the hands of the Editor by 7th April, 1990.

WISDOM FROM THE TREASURER

It would be helpful when members are completing Bankers Orders or Bank Mandate Forms if they would kindly comply with the request to complete all the relevant spaces that form an integral part of the instruction and not just pen their signature. The extra work and telephone calls is enormous in order to make the document effective and legally binding. In anticipation of your future co-operation I enter the rest of 1990 with less trepidation.

Sidney Johnson, Treasurer

WORDS FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Did you all read of the enquiry about assisting the "G.S.", with the individual entries into the computer? I regret to say that the response is disappointing and to date only one member has responded. Failure to obtain assistance which means a complete and accurately recorded address with postcode, called in some places the zip code, may well mean that some of the amendments necessary to ensure receipt of the newsletter will not be carried out so that such things as changes of address may not get into the system to activate the printing of the envelope labels.

J. H. Foster, General Secretary

NOTICE

Our General Secretary and his wife Dorothy have signed leave passes to absent themselves from the normal duties for two longish periods of time. They will both be effectively absent from their posts from the end of May 1990 to the end of July 1990 (say two months later this year) and again from mid January 1991 until the end of June 1991 (say five and a half months or the first half of next year). Before anyone panics that the world is coming to an end (as well it might), Central Council are taking all steps to ensure the continued smooth running of our affairs during the periods of absence. Doubtless readers will hear more about all this as time goes on. For the moment, just carry on.

Photograph on front cover:
Jaffa Gate area (as it was).
Picture from Fred Edwards.

MORE WORDS FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Will members please note that the telephone code for numbers in the London area will be amended as from 6th May, 1990. All 01 prefixes will be replaced by 071 for central London areas and 081 for other parts of Greater London. For example, S. W. (Mickey) Hills' telephone number will be prefixed 071 instead of 01 whilst the General Secretary's telephone number will be prefixed by 081 instead of the former 01.

If you have relatives and/or friends in the London area it is suggested that if they have not informed you of the change of telephone code you should request them to let you know before May 1990.

What is even more important is for London members, particularly those in Central Council or Branch offices, to inform the General Secretary and the London Branch Secretary of your new prefix telephone code. This information is also wanted for the newsletter. Otherwise you are in danger of going off our map and add to the problems of those who are already committed to run the organisation. Thank you.

John Foster

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE
9th November, 1989

The Field of Remembrance in the Memorial Garden at Westminster Abbey was opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother on 9th November, 1989. In the course of her inspection Her Majesty stopped at the Palestine Police Plot and spoke to the Association Chairman and the General Secretary who attended the ceremony with 35 others. An altogether impressive and moving occasion. Those present in addition to the two leading members of Central Council already mentioned included: Messrs: G. Keown, E. Williams, L. Ratcliffe, P. O'Boyle, I. Proud, W. Tait, P. Tombs, H. Jervis, P. Conway, R. Postlethwaite, J. Wilson, D. Cartwright, C. Woods, S. Baxendale, A. Dawson, L. Cunningham, E. DeVal, M. Burke, T. Isted and L. Stelfox. Happily there were also a number of ladies present and these included Mesdames: G. Williams, J. Ratcliffe, A. Stanners, D. Foster, L. Robertson, H. Tombs, N. Haubner, M. Turner, E. Postlethwaite, M. Baxendale, M. Woods (and her son) and B. Barham.

For what must probably be the first time in about 40 years S. W. (Micky) Hills was not able to be present because he was overseas on holiday. He usually acts as a steward each year with the co-operation of many London Branch members to whom the association at large owe a debt of gratitude. There is much to be done in ordering and placing the large number of crosses required and to conform to the Royal British Legion Rules. But it went well. Another 12 members, including the Association President, Brigadier Rymer-Jones asked for special crosses to be placed and to be represented in spirit by those who were unable to attend. Many of the ladies present were widows of members

who had passed away since leaving Palestine. In this respect it was good to see Mrs. Barham, Stacey Barham's widow, in attendance. We also remember that Mrs. Nancy Haubner lost her husband in Palestine. This lady has been a loyal supporter of this association since she came home. Finally, and knowing that health is a wee bit of a worry to him, we must not forget to thank Mr. Ian Proud for his constant support and we are grateful he felt able to attend this ceremony.

Terry Shand, Association Chairman
and
Micky Hills, Benevolent Association Chairman.

BOOK REVIEW

We have been asked to mention a book written by Roy Follows C.P.M., who served in the Malaya Police throughout the post war crisis with distinction. He is the brother of former B/Const. 2037 C. T. Follows who served with us in Palestine. Roy's book is entitled Jungle Beat and is due for publication in March 1990 by Cassell Plc, Stanley House, 3 Fleets Lane, Poole, Dorset BH15 3AJ and the price is £12.95 plus £2.95 for postage and packing in U.K. or £4.98 extra for overseas service. It will of course in due time be available in bookshops and libraries.

Roy joined the Malaya Police at the age of 22 and was soon offered a post with the Marine Police on Penang Island. This he turned down for something more adventurous. To quote from the blurb. It was said a man spent 700 hours jungle bashing before he fought and killed his first terrorist. This book is concerned with the 701st hour. He gives a vivid account of the conditions and the problems in so far as they affected policework and the business of defeating the terrorists. As many of our chaps who served in Malaya (450 of them went out and 380 of them returned alive), little is said about the mosquitos, drenching rain, appalling food and ever present violence. He has a joint author in Hugh Popham and between them this is a book that Malaya enthusiasts as well as Malaya haters ought to be able to read with pleasure. It comes through as an honest account of a little remembered war. Roy lives at 104 The Post Office, Waterloo Road, Burslem, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire ST6 3HB. But if you want the book write now to Cassells at the address quoted and reserve a copy.

JUNGLE BEAT

By S. R. FOLLOWS, C.P.M.
with Hugh POPHAM

A policeman's account of the violent terrorist campaign in Malaya during the emergency. A well written and useful book for any library for those interested in or who took part in that campaign.

Published by Cassells Plc, Stanley House, 3 Fleets Lane, Poole, Dorset BH15 3AJ.

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HOME NOTES

Here we are in the nineteen nineties. The 70th year since the Palestine Police was established (1st July, 1920) – The 42nd year since it "stood down" (15th May, 1948) – The 44th year since the O.C.A. held its first meeting (2nd February, 1946) – The 38th year since the first Cenotaph Parade (19th October, 1952) and all seems set for a few more useful years. After all the General Secretary's computer is computing. Central Council is still counselling, God is in His heaven and the greenhouse effect may be sufficiently far away for those of us left to enjoy some sort of quality in our lives, so all is well. May this Editor bless and praise those who have assisted him and pass on greetings to absolutely everyone for a cheerful and healthy (or healthier) New Year, tinged no doubt with an element of well earned prosperity.

As usual the Christmas cards poured in and as usual we must deliberately omit to mention most of them because of space. But also as usual we thank those overseas members who so kindly sent us cards. Although those quoted are from the Editor's list, many names appear on those cards also addressed to our Association Chairman and General Secretary who wish to add their own thanks. So those who must be mentioned are: Miss Jane Adamson (Jerusalem), John Tipper (Cyprus), Shlomo Tadger (Israel), Ahmad and Fatmeh Tamimi (Israel), John Fforde (a Vice-President of ours in South Africa), Charles and Tina Eadon-Clarke (West Australia), Paddy Thompson and entire West Australia branch. Christmas is also a time when we extend special thoughts for P.P. widows and we are grateful that so many of them appear to do the same for us. We also had cards from Mesdames: Elsie Webb, Vicky Freeman, Betty Sandy, Eileen Smith, Nancy Head, Joyce Stewart, Lola Messer, Audrey Stanners, Bella Todman and Eileen Darling. Cards and the required stamps make for considerable expense these days and we are grateful that we are "still on the list of so many people". Otherwise we give thanks to all our "sisters" within the association.

All kinds of memorabilia comes our way and much is of interest even when not subject to Palestine Police history. For example a scrappy photocopied pocket size locally produced guide book was loaned to us to see and comment. It appears to have been produced by an enterprising soldier who signed himself Sapper Sergeant circa 1940 to 1941. It was entitled "A Soldier's Travel Guide to Palestine" and his comment on the local railway system was amusing. We quote: "The trains in Palestine are really very good although not so fast as in Egypt. They have a tendency to stop where scheduled which is reassuring to European travellers. But they often stop when not scheduled which is not so reassuring. They can be guaranteed to stop at Kantara because the canal is in the way and will always stop when the line is blocked by rocks, cattle or another train and this is the ultimate reassurance." End of quote and British Rail to take note that there is some sort of public relations quality in this last comment which they might care to study. At this point while "railway bashing" as it were, we have an urge to reprint something that appeared on page 25 of Newsletter No. 95 way back in June 1974. It was an extract from The Official Gazette (later called Palestine Gazette in 1928). It read: Tenders are invited by the Railway Sleeper, Palestine Railways for the supply of: 35,000 General Managers.

Specification, and Tender Form, price 100 mils may be obtained from Stores Superintendent, Haifa. Closing date for acceptance of tenders June 20th, 1928. Corrigenda. For Railway Sleeper read General Manager. For General Managers read Railway Sleepers. Our comment at the time was: One is not sure which is worse, the original lapse or the attempt to correct it. As the Editor is a railway buff this is the official end of the "being nasty to railways section"! Now for something completely different.

Way back in the September issue of 1989 (N.L. 156) and Page 10 to be precise, we happily mentioned that a letter to our Association Treasurer from a Mr. P. D. Lennett of The Royal Hong Kong Police referred to a collection of wall shields that adorned the Officers Mess at The Training School and that one depicting the P.P.O.C.A. had been donated by the late R. Kinsman, a former member of the Palestine Police. There the matter might have stood except for the fact that we do not seem to know much about R. Kinsman Esq. and asked if anyone else did. This has developed into what can only be described as The Kinsman Saga. Thanks are due to Duncan McNeil, C.P.M., of "Barra", Kippford, Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire DG5 4LL (a nice place name to type and we are aware that it is pronounced differently which adds to its charm – Ed.). Duncan went on to serve in Hong Kong and is very wise in matters affecting that colony. He had not heard of an R. Kinsman either and so girding his naturally implanted detective qualities he wrote to Hong Kong to find out more. The upshot of a great deal of two-way correspondence is that R. Kinsman may not have existed at all. In fact comprehensive investigation reveals that nobody and certainly not Mr. Lennett, the former Deputy Commissioner (in 1965) recalled a R. Kinsman serving in the R.H.K.P. either as a police officer or as a civilian. Duncan served for 22 years in that famed force and thought he knew all the former P.P. element but cannot recall the mystery wall plaque donor nor can other former P.P. whom he has been able to contact. "The mystery deepens", as Duncan stated in one of his letters. But then there was some light – or at least a weak glimmer which might be described as light of a sort. Duncan heard from Bill Spence (ex-Malaya) and we now quote the new informant "with regard to Richard Kinsman, no mystery here. R.K. is the nom de plume of an associate of earlier days in Palestine – a very long time ago – and with no mention in Force rolls". A bit enigmatic you might feel but it reveals that Kinsman does not exist. So who was the person behind Richard Kinsman? – The man who never was. But our shield still remains on the wall of the officers' mess at the R.H.K.P. Training School. Or until 1997 anyway.

From time to time our computerised secretariat will be able to drop out little bon mots and items of trivia that will delight the sensibilities of some and bore others to death. For instance as at 31st December, 1989 did you know that numbers allocated to new members stood at 5171 – and that there are 164 widows in the Association. One hundred and sixty three Associate Members had joined us as well as 203 Donor Members. There are 11 Honorary Members (the Editor does not know who these might be so do not ask). There are 827 Life Members with 50 Double Life Members and six Triple "Lifers". It has to be said that not a lot of people know all this and it also has to be said that no other association of its kind can equal us in these kind of figures. So there is nothing trivial about it after all.

Bert Glover of 29 Penn Lane, Bexley, Kent DA5 1HB is a useful sort of chap. It is many years since this Editor met Bert in various obscurely sited mortuaries in South East London in the early hours on the Queen's business connected with the dead. Bert was Coroner's Officer for many years in "R" Division, Metropolitan Police. So, as I started to say, he is a useful sort of chap. He discovered an 88 year old member of the former British Gendarmerie living near him. He is Leonard David Coburn of 38 Brook Lane, Bexley, Kent DA5 1DW and of course we have since corresponded. Len's memory goes back a long way to the Plymouth and City of Oxford vessel that took the unit to Palestine and he seems delighted to have discovered us. We hope we shall hear more of him and wish him all health and happiness for 1990.

Every now and again an editor of a journal like this feels the cutting edge of several sword points coming from different directions. For example our old friend, stalwart companion and former Central Councillor, Brian Stockwell who wrote as long ago as 26th March, 1989 (was it as long ago as that?), pointing out that it was to be hoped that we would not publish long and tedious lists of those members, relatives and friends who foregather at various P.P. functions in different parts of the world, particularly when we get so tight for space – which is something we constantly have to keep in mind to the point of making omissions. It must be admitted that Brian has a point. But then we get quite a lot of letters from those who complain that a list of those in attendance at some such gathering was either incomplete or not published at all, so that the chance of picking out a dimly remembered name of a former and otherwise close companion is missed. We even have members who complain that their name or their wife's name was not printed on every occasion that they attended something or other. Here we feel we are very much in the middle. For a start we can only print what is reported to us in the first place. If a name is left off the copy, then it is left out of the publication. We feel in a general consensus of comment and correspondence that members search for the names of former comrades and actually come together after somebody has written in response to a name seen in the newsletter. We have a gut feeling we might continue with this policy for the time being but Brian Stockwell has got a reasonable point. Perhaps Branch Secretaries could give a lead by asking at Branch Meetings what your members want? Some branch secretaries never bother to give us the names of those who attended their dinner/dances anyway and we are past giving hints we would like them. We wish to inform without being boring. Perhaps this matter will be raised again within the year.

Now we must call upon those many West African old timers for a little help. Many readers will recall that not long ago we published the sad death of Jacques Anthony (Tony) Dudley-Nigg a former A.S.P. in Palestine but more importantly a Commissioner of Prisons in Sierra Leone many years afterwards. He had a very distinguished career and was responsible for much advancement in the sporting world of the region so that his retirement was treated with sadness by those who had worked for and with him. His widow Melanie who lives at The Old Abbey, Leiston, Suffolk IP17 4RF is writing her late husband's biographical story, not so much for publication but for the benefit of her grandchildren. She has come to the point when the Dudley-Niggs were honoured with 'The Hausa Farewell' as their ship drew away from the dockside on his last journey home. This Editor has heard of The Hausa Farewell but cannot

find reference to it in any book. We have been asked by Melanie to come up with something. What is its history for example? One is a little confused because the Hausa people live in Northern Nigeria and presumably the ship sailed from a port hundreds of miles somewhere else. If anyone can come up with a snippet on this matter it will be appreciated and Melanie can get her narrative right.

We were pleased to hear from J. L. C. (John) Dart of Four Winds, Shebbear, Beaworthy, North Devon. After Palestine he has spent most of his time in the world of insurance but he recalls happy days with Port and Marine in Haifa after a spell at Central Police Station in that town. The Exodus incident was his introduction to that section. We hope he does not feel too cut off from the rest of us in North Devon although he is in touch with Harry Bearyman. Brendan Byrne of 175 Owell Road, Dublin 14, Irish Republic, also wrote and we should congratulate him, or at least his son on his ordination some two years ago in the United States. For that matter we should also congratulate Brendan and his wife for achieving a round the world tour recently. He hopes to make the Parade and Dinner soon and of course we hope he does too.

John Grieve of 12 Abbotsford Terrace, Darnick, Roxburgh TD6 9AD waxes enthusiastically about this association at large. He actually states "I find that the association is the best thing that has happened to me since I retired from the fray". This is apparently true for several members. John also recalls that he found The Cenotaph Parade impressive and again, as always, a most moving occasion. Always worth the effort to attend. This is also true for many of us. That's the key word as a matter of fact. "The effort to attend". A vital individual act of witness if you like that makes all the efforts of Branch and Central Council work gel together. The expenditure is one early rise per year to get to The Cenotaph by 10.30am to pay respect to those comrades we left behind. Men who are largely unmourned by anyone else.

A. R. (Bob) Ashton of Hawthorn House, 1 Newton Drive, Accrington, Lancashire visited Cyprus last autumn and on British Forces Remembrance Day attended Curium amphitheatre. He spotted "the tie" in the crowd and its wearer turned out to be Wally Sendell of Lymington and a sort of Mukhtar of that fair Hampshire Town. Many thanks for keeping in touch. One of our Donor Members is Roger Tucker of 17 Kingsway Drive, Kidlington, Oxfordshire OX5 2LZ, who also happens to be a keen police insignia collector. He is in good company in that fascinating hobby. He remarks in a recent letter. "My regret is that I was not born earlier. There were no colonial forces left when I was old enough to join. I have long felt that many of your officers could still teach those serving today a thing or two". This is an observation we have heard before. It is true that Palestine Policeman did not have to work under the glare of T.V. cameras which must be very difficult. But our depot training did produce a high quality of command, experience and swift decision making that in the end left former P.P. to run the police forces of Empire for a decade after the Stand Down. One supposes we did have that little something that makes for success.

Harry Hartley wrote. He lives at 67 Fountain Drive, Roberttown, Liversedge, West Yorkshire WF15 7PY; as did Ken Harrison of 82 Richards Close, Wellington, Somerset TA21 0BE. Both deserve a better mention of the contents of their letters than they are going to get. Finally John Newman of

Grays Inn, Napolean Street, Jamestown, Island of St Helena, South Atlantic has a place reserved in the next issue for detailed mention.

Our first list of "heard from" people consists of: L. H. (Les) Quilter of 9 Birch Close, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9HN, a former proud member of the 13th London (Princess Louise's, Kensington) Regiment whom we must thank for a copy of the Regimental magazine. We also remind readers that we owe Les much. He was a member of Central Council 1953 to 1957 which gives him a sort of House of Lords status. Ken Harrison of The Acorns, 82 Richards Close, Wellington, Somerset TA21 0BE who sent a series of interesting letters. Mr. Jeremy Wagener of Fairfield, Silver Street, Stanstead Mountfitchet, Essex CM24 8HE, who is not a member of the association but correspondence reveals he is the grandson of former District Superintendent W. F. (Bill) Sinclair who died from illness in Haifa in 1927 and one of the founders of our great force in 1920. We hope we shall keep in touch. And lastly in this batch, we also heard from Eugene Berry of 2 Hawthorne Gardens, Flackwell Heath, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP10 9DH who seeks to get his medals replaced after having them stolen.

Lew Boffin, the estimable branch secretary for South Midlands Branch and his dear wife Pam, are not very pleased. This really means that they are both hopping mad. They live at 13 Highworth Road, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7EG, an address typed at least 100 times by this editor, which was temporarily left secure and empty before Christmas while the Boffins went out. They returned to find the place ransacked and some property stolen. This sort of thing can drive ordinary citizens who are otherwise law abiding to frenetic efforts to introduce compulsory euthanasia for those responsible. Regretfully many of the important branch records were also taken. Worse still, so was Lew's copy of The Roll of Honour. Our sub-editor thought this item should appear under Sick Parade, since the couple felt so sick about it. But it appears in this column instead. For someone who has probably done more for the association than most of us, Lew deserves better. An Arabian custom of dealing with the hands of thieves would be a useful response by a sensible society. But there we go and we should not comment further.

J. L. (John) Costello who is "roughing it" in what must be a virtual tropical climate at P.O. Box 2090, Cairns, Queensland 4870, Australia, wrote to our General Secretary and was interested in the report several issues back of the Memorial Plaque and Dedication Ceremony at Flint House, Berkshire brought about by Bill Daw. The officiating priest was the Rev. Alan Bowhill, you will recall. Apparantly Alan served as John's chief security officer for two years at the time he was General Manager of the Papua New Guinea Harbour Board. It's a small world says John. It also accounts for why he is used to a warm Pacific climate. Who can blame him!

H. A. (Harry) Arrigonie has come onto our radar screen and can be found at Rambla Dos, Apartamento 401, Bajamar, Tenerife, Canary Islands. In correspondence with our General Secretary it looks as though former B/Const. 317 is in good fettle. Harry was at one time a force boxer and a light heavyweight at that. After Palestine, many will recall he went on to serve in the Northern

Rhodesia Police. He has a memory of Gordon Cutbush with whom he served at Hadar Hacarmel in 1937. He is always saddened that the vessel that took his squad to Palestine (1935ish) was the Jervis Bay, later sunk by the Scharnhorst which attacked a convoy. By then the Jervis Bay had been converted into an armed cruiser and straight away went for the Scharnhorst only to be blown out of the water. So many marvellous ships sunk during the war. We are reminded meanwhile that there is the nucleus of a mini-branch in Tenerife. John Hawley lives there for a start and we think J. Y. R. Wigan an associate member is still there. One more might just clinch it although it is our experience that mini-branches of this kind are just an amusing aside. But a once a year meeting is no bad thing. Branch or no branch.

Still a lot of P.P. wandering about the globe, most of whom are on some sort of holiday. We had cards from Bella Todman posted in Malaysia. Sid Williams posted in Looe, Cornwall (not in lieu – joke!) and Joseph Wiener posted in Tiberias. As Joseph lives nearby, perhaps he is not an actual wanderer but his card was welcome just the same. But letters there have been in plenty. One came from Colin Gibson of 14 Oriel Close, Barnham, Nr. Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO22 0HN who in one giant stride moved recently from Charmouth, Dorset to Sussex. Is he someone else getting ready for 1992, we ask? When all will become different and home might be across the English Channel. His published change of address brought him into contact with his old pal George Pringle who lives at Chichester only eight miles distant. Another George, this time George Jaffa, is still very active we see. He is probably better known to his old squad mates as George Wallace-Clarke. He lives at Sanston, Grasmere Road, Chesterfield, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3LX, and George Jaffa is his nom de plume as a journalist with his own column in the Southend Evening Echo, obviously a very superior newspaper. In the list of 1989 winners of Journalists and Broadcasters' Awards, George won the best Property Column Section. Well done! In the old days it is a pity we did not have George to edit the old Force Magazine, it was always a bit "tired" in presentation. Another letter of great interest came from George Upfold of 4 Western Road, Selsey, West Sussex PO20 0JP, some 45 years at least since he captained Lydda District Rugby XV. As one sees from the address George is another West Sussex man. Apart from making contact with some local P.P. in the area, George recalls from reading a letter in issue 156 from Shan Wilson, that reference was made to Buck Garland in the Mussafa Billet, Jaffa. He recalls the finger incident that was described very well. He also remembers Buck's stories of the Indian Frontier and his knowledge of Kipling and Omar Khayyam. Happy days.

Someone else who got carried away in nostalgia was Butch Cheshire who wrote from 20 Hazelhead Court, Hemlington, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS8 9LT. He has not long been at this address so has yet to find his legs in the area. In Palestine he had been a friend of the late W. A. C. (Taffy) Baston who died in March 1987. They were together at German Colony, Jerusalem with Terry Shand. He and Terry attended the Baston wedding and what a reception that was. He recalls others there at the time as including Dick Edge, Jack Tester, Taffy Rees Senior, Ernie Lockwood, Johnny Malcolm Stuart. While writing this particular letter, Butch added that the voice of Jessie Norman came over the radio singing the Holy City. Almost touching on the supernatural we should say.

Turning now to something completely different, we were excited by a letter from a Mr. Brian Connell of 25 Newland Drive, Over Hilton, Bolton, Lancashire BL5 1DR whose father was B/Const., later B/Inspector, John Connell who joined the Force on 23rd September, 1928. Brian is an Associate Member No. 85 so he is already one of us in many respects. But it leads us to point out that of the 150 members of the British Section at the time of the 1929 riots, only 78 were engaged in the dreadful rioting in and around Jerusalem. Brian has possession of the special silver medal awarded to his father as one of those 78 men by donations from a grateful public. They must be considered very rare. Unfortunately this Association does not possess one but it is nice to know where some of them are located. Finally it should be added that Brian followed in his father's footsteps to some extent as he served 30 years in the Greater Manchester Police. For one born in the Scottish Mission Hospital, Tiberias, this is not bad. Not bad at all.

N. J. (John) Dyer is an interesting sort of chap to receive a letter from. He is ex-33 by the way and can be found at 55 Church Road, Hauxton, Cambridge CB2 5HS. He was saddened to learn of the death of Eric Amos which was reported a few issues back. They were on Frontier Control duties together under the late A.S.P. Marner and later Inspector Perry. Recently he renewed contact with Arthur Lancaster who is another Frontier Control man. Arthur is a Londoner and we are sorry to learn that he recently lost his dear wife Yadja, a former Polish nursing lady whom he married in the Middle East. However John was a former member of the Queen's West Surrey Regiment, once proudly the 3rd Regiment of Foot and in the regimental journal reference is made to two names. A Mr. W. E. Price who afterwards joined the "Palestine Constabulary" (whoops) and a Mr. B. Johnson from Clywd who did the same. Are Messrs. Price and Johnson with us? wonders John Dyer. For that matter the same question is asked by the General Secretary for such are the ways of General Secretaries everywhere. Whom among you can answer these questions?

We were sorry to learn that E. T. (Ernie) Ashmore of 37 Newburgh Crescent, The Cape, Warwick CV34 5EE is living on his own these days, from which we gather his good lady has died. Ernie is a fairly recent acquisition to the association and a letter to our general Secretary travels back in time to various memory lane aspects, so delightfully common to all former Palestine Policemen. He joined the Police Mobile Force on 7th May, 1944 direct from the army in the Middle East and was one of those involved in collecting vehicles. He recalls parties sent on sightseeing tours to such places as Nazareth where a nun informed them that were the modern crusaders etc. Then later at Rawdat billet in the Old City. Ah well! It all seems a thousand years ago now.

Another group of heard from people are: Eugene Berry of 2 Hawthorne Gardens, Flackwell Heath, Buckinghamshire who sends his salaams to all. Bill and Jean Hawkes of Chilla Cottage, Membury, Axminster, Devon EX13 7TZ appear to be in good health. Les Cox of 88 Vicarage Lane, Kings Langley Hertfordshire WD4 9HR, who reminds us that much of his service was in the Dog Section in Palestine (about whom this editor has reason to believe the dog handlers were among the fittest men in Palestine). Shan Wilson of Orchard Close, Bosnieres, Withiel, Nr. Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 5NQ and finally Gerald (Dodger) Green of Margerstan House, Northleach, Gloucestershire GL54 3PG who contacts us frequently with all kinds of tit bits of interest.

Bill Chestnutt of Kastana, 23 High Street North, Titfield, Towcester, Northamptonshire NN12 8AD contacted us some time ago, now that we come to study his letter in depth, 20th September, 1989 to be precise. He makes some kind remarks about the newsletter for which we thank him, but he regrets the growing length of the obituary list, as indeed we all do. On another tack, however, he reminds us of a BBC appeal about a year ago for viewers to submit 35mm colour slides from which a distinguished panel would select pictures for a present 'Domesday Video Tape'. The video was made evidently and copies have gone to schools and the like. Bill submitted six slides and such was the high standard apparently that three were selected. He thinks a certain chap named Edward Horne would be pleased to know that A Job Well Done features in one of them, sitting prominently on Bill's bookshelf. This might prove to be the second occasion that particular book has appeared on television. In August 1988, Roll Films Ltd. of Tel Aviv made a feature film in London in which a certain Edward Horne featured with A Job Well Done carefully arranged behind him. We wait to hear if there has been a jump in sales to Israel.

The number of correspondents who will not get a mention in this newsletter is considerable. Suffice to say that we have had letters, and some very interesting at that from: Norman Anderson, Boda S-570. 20 Bodafors Sweden; Shlomo Tadger, 137 Hev Gevirol Street, Tel Aviv 62037; Albert Eyes, C.P.M., The Nook, Bodenham, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 4EU; Gerald Chapman, 1641 Dominion Road, Fort Erie, Ontario L2A 5M4 Canada; Bill Pilkington, 87 Old Meadow Lane, Hale, Altrincham, Chesire WA15 8LA; Duggie Fairfoul, 84 Coral Road, Bloubergrand Cape, RSA 7443 (see also Tracers section – Ed.) and Norman Macarthur, 1 Southwell Gardens, South Kensington, London SW7 4SB. This list is long and there at least a dozen names omitted. But some of these letters will come up on a recycling process in future issues.

Dorothy Foster, wife of our hard working, taken for granted and grossly underrated General Secretary was in the A.T.S. in Jerusalem. The couple married in 'Jerusalem The Golden' as a matter of fact. Dorothy had a friend named Lyn, now a Mrs. Lyn Valaris and passes on an interesting snippet of news. Should any P.P. visit Tanzania and care to make themselves known to Mrs Valeris at P.O. Box 249, Tanga, Tanzania, they might not lose by it. Lyn is a director of the Tanga Hotel and Dorothy asks that any such visitor passes on her kind regards. Sounds like a simple operation.

Talking of our G.S. in this manner reminds us that he wishes to point out that there are still a number of members who have some financial difficulties to whom the newsletter is dispatched free of charge so that they, and the rest of us can keep in touch. Which after all is the important thing. It is on their behalf that members who can afford a little more than the minimum subscription, which at the moment is £10 per year, to make whatever extra donation they feel they can.

The matron of the St. John's Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem, Joan Turner, was home in Cheltenham for Christmas and an appeal for financial assistance for this hospital was made on her behalf by the Gloucestershire Echo. The hospital was founded in the last century and deals with Arab children who have eye diseases and Joan wishes to set up a family centre in the village of Abu

Dis. Doug Brain and Gerald Green met her and were among the first to contribute to her very worthwhile cause. Anyone else who feels like copying their example can contact Joan Turner at St. John's Ophthalmic Hospital, P.O. Box 19960, East Jerusalem, Israel. Tel: Jerusalem 828325. At this point this is a good time to close these notes.

DEPOT INSTRUCTORS. EARLY 1940's.

Standing Back Row. Left to Right: *Charlie Poole, Jack Nettleton, Percy Price, Winnie Sharp.*
Standing Centre Row: *Jack McDonald, Edgar Wallace, John Minshall, Tony Mundy, Jim Mellors.*
Sitting: *B/Insp. McDonald, B/Insp. Mackintosh, not known officer commanding*, A/A.S.P. Mathews and B/Insp. Smith*

*This is the second time we have published this picture. Who is the officer commanding? Could it be Superintendent Munro without his kalpak?
Photograph from late Edgar Wallace collection.

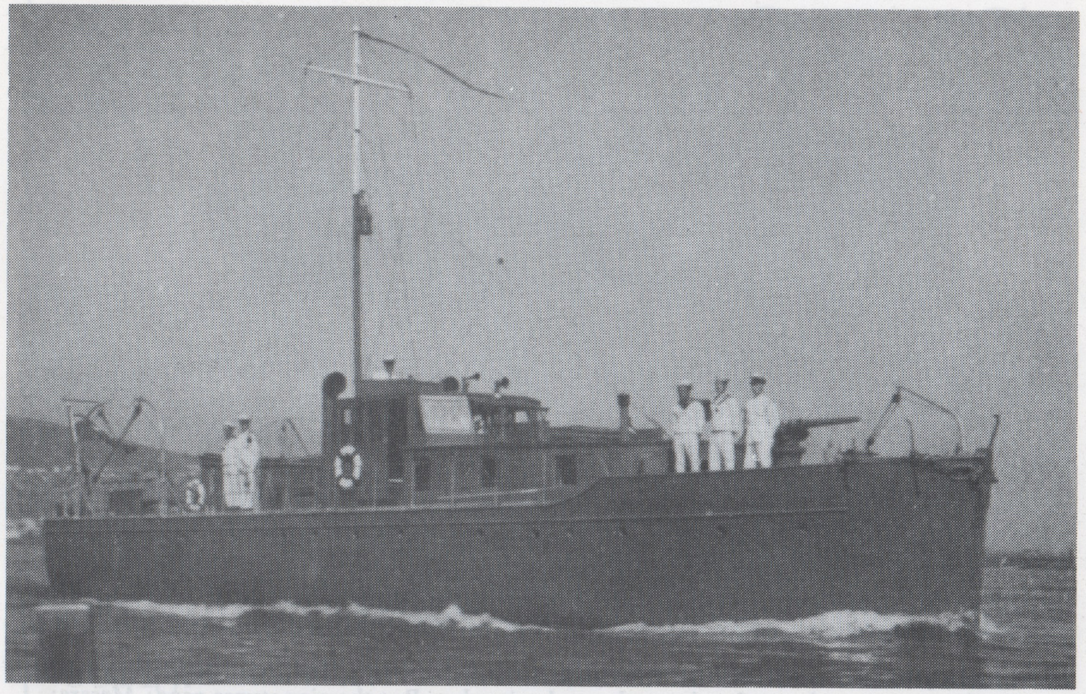
THE OLDEST LIVING THINGS IN PALESTINE

These are olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane, circa May 1940. Father Eugene Hoad is in the foreground. Already an Honorary Assistant Chaplain to the force, then from April 1945 a full Chaplain with honorary rank of D.S.P.
Photograph from M. W. Hatch collection.

TWO VERY BIG BIGWIGS

The I.G. Mr Roy Spicer talking to his newly appointed D.I.G. Mr Kingsley-Heath on Armistice Day 1935.
Photograph from Don Cartwright.

NAUTICAL OCCASION – ONE



Port and Marine Vessel, H.M.S. Moreta. End of war years.
Photograph from Charles Barton.

NAUTICAL OCCASION – TWO

Port and Marine. Motor Launch 1145. Circa April 1946.
Photograph from Charles Barton.

SOME LIKELY LADS – 'D' SQUAD. JENIN. circa 1946/47

In the photograph are: Fifteen stout hearted lads. On the reverse of the picture are 24 signatures. Readers must work out for themselves who is who. But the signatures read: Messrs: J. Lumsden, R. G. W. Lamb, F. W. Jones, R. Manners, J. A. Maunders, R. C. Young, P. J. O'Doherty, K. R. Drake, D. Taylor, R. Evans, W. Evans, K. Cook, H. Cook, R. Cooke, W. Stewart, J. Ashworth and D. Lawrence. In addition there are seven totally illegible signatures.
Photograph from: The late Edgar Wallace collection.

DEEP CONCENTRATION – TULKARM 1940

Left to right: *B/Const. 1534 Dines, B/Const. Kraft, B/Sgt. Webb.*
Photograph from W. Dines.

BRANCH NOTES

IMPORTANT NOTICE

For reasons not yet understood, the Branch Notes submitted by Branch Secretaries have not reached the Editor's desk in time to go to press. We delayed things for a week but cannot wait longer. Thus this newsletter will arrive very late and we are sorry.

In some cases, where a wise secretary has submitted copies of his notes direct, we have been able to make up something suitable. Meanwhile it follows that various snippets requiring mention in Greetings, Congratulations and Sick Parade columns will also be omitted.

Handling the newsletter is now almost totally unmanageable and it appears more by luck than judgment these days, but we do not like to let readers down more than can be helped. Don't blame your secretary, blame us for the present problem.

LONDON BRANCH

The branch meets on the first Saturday of every month at the Cardinal, "Headquarters", Francis Street, London SW1, at 8.00 p.m. The presence of the ladies is positively encouraged.

Chairman Emeritus: T. J. Shand Esq.

Chairman: L. Sexton, 42 Barbara Brosnan Court, 46 Grove End Road, St. Johns Wood, London NW8 9NP. Tel: 071-289 0041.

Vice-Chairman: T. Isted, Flat 6, 34 Erskine Road, Walthamstow, London E17 6RZ. Tel: 081-520 5914.

Secretary: W. Anderson, 19 Priestly Road, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2LL. Tel: 081-648 8324.

Acting Secretary (June to October 1990): Paddy O'Boyle, 21 Cavendish Close, Kilburn, London NW6 7XU.

Treasurer: T. Freeburn, 24 Dale View Avenue, Chingford, London E4 6PL. Tel: 081-524 2081.

Committee: Messrs R. Hamilton, P. O'Boyle, L. Ratcliffe and C. Wood.

★

The branch Annual General Meeting took place on 4th November, 1989 with Tom Isted taking the chair. There was an apology for absence from Len Sexton our chairman, but otherwise all members of the committee were present. Tom Isted gave a short and interesting address from the chair and the main business of the meeting then followed. The finances are secure and seem healthy enough and Tom Freeburn was congratulated on his book keeping. After the Treasurer's Report came one from the Branch Secretary and Bill Anderson took the meeting through the main events of the branch year. A vote of thanks for a very busy secretary was then given.

All members of the committee offered themselves for re-election and at the appropriate time each office holder was separately proposed and seconded and voted upon, which is the correct way of doing such things. Gerry Keown became an additional member of the committee.

The details of the branch dinner-dance on 17th February will appear in the next issue so it only remains to report upon the Cardinal attendances in recent months. At the 4th November meeting, which took place after the A.G.M., and in addition to the branch committee members already named, there were Mrs. Joan Ratcliffe, Charles and Mary Wood and William Wood, Ken Cox, George Guest, Bill and Flo Parks, John (Angus) Wilson, Arthur and Muriel Dawson, John and Heather McVitty, Don and Eileen Williams and Lyn Robertson and daughter-in-law, Sandra. The attendance on 7th January consisted once again of most of the London Branch committee but this time with Stan and Margaret Baxendale, the three Woods (Charles, Mary and William), Jim Brewer, Charles and Tegwyn Gammon, John Gardiner, George Guest, Bill and Flo Parks, Bill Shearman and Audrey Stanners. From South East Counties area came David

Niven, Arthur and Muriel Dawson, Bill and Gill Moorhead and Don and Eileen Williams. On the whole a fairly good turn out.

The December meeting was graced with Derek Jackson, not yet mentioned, and associate member Ian Thomson and his wife Judith from Maidstone. Ian hoped to glean information about his father who served in the force. (See Tracer Section, last issue page 65 – Ed.)

Finally I must give notice that from June 1990 until October 1990 I (Bill Anderson) will be away from my post on holiday. A volunteer Acting Secretary is Paddy O'Boyle, 21 Cavendish Close, Kilburn, London NW6 7XU to whom all correspondence should by sent until I return. Please make a note.

W.A.

SOUTH-EASTERN COUNTIES BRANCH

Chairman: W. H. (Bill) Church, 1 Wimbourne Avenue, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5AQ. Tel: (0737) 765488.

Vice-Chairman/Secretary: Maurice H. Hill, 7 Selhurst Close, East Preston, West Sussex BN16 2SR. Tel: (0903) 776661.

Treasurer: Maurice B. Clarke, 16 Turners Mill Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex TH16 1NW. Tel: (0444) 454969.

Committee: Messrs M. E. Brackston, A. R. Hawkridge, E. S. C. Lillywhite, J. L. Niven, R. G. Turner and E. H. Weeks.

★

See notice at the beginning of Branch Notes section of this issue.

SOUTHERN AND WESTERN COUNTIES BRANCH

Chairman: J. H. Leggett, Southview, 1 Hamtun Crescent, Totton, Southampton, Hampshire SO4 3PB. Tel: (0703) 863498.

Vice-Chairman: D. L. Long, 3 Sloborough Close, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 5RF. Tel: (0305 81) 3528.

Acting Secretary: B. P. Henwood, 169 Stourvale Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth, Dorset BH6 5HQ. Tel: (0202) 431172.

Treasurer: T. R. Walker, 8 Moonrakers Way, Highcliffe, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 4RD. Tel: (0425) 26761.

Minutes Secretary: Miss A. Shand, Linford Farm House, Linford, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 3HX. Tel: (0425) 472770.

Committee: Messrs E. DeVal, C.P.M., H. J. Jensen, A. Metcalfe, J. W. E. Tait and G. W. Vaughan.

★

Our annual dinner-dance took place at the Courtlands Hotel, Boscombe, Bournemouth on Saturday 2nd December, 1989 and 91 persons booked into the dinner. Of this number 34 were former Spinney's Chit Book holders and the rest were wives, associates, donors, friends and supporters. There was a certain amount of vintage quality present so that it was noticeable that few actually took advantage of the dancing facilities afterwards, which is understandable. We had seven from Central Council which included the Association Chairman Terry Shand, General Secretary John Foster, Ted Horne, Mickey Hills, David Niven, Tom Isted and Ron Pemble. Representatives from London Branch, South Midlands Branch and South Eastern Counties Branch were also present. Grace and the Loyal Toast were given by Messrs. H. J. (Hank) Jenson and W. J. (Wally) Sendell respectively. The Toast to Absent Friends came from E. P. (Ted) Horne, the Toast to the Ladies and Guests from D. L. (Don) Long, the Branch Vice-Chairman and J. W. E. (Bill) Tait gave the Toast to the Association. The singing of The Holy City was led by T. J. (Terry) Shand. When prize winning tickets for the branch Grand Christmas Draw took place the three top winners were: Tom Walker (1st), Len Jordan of Guernsey (2nd) and Mrs. Ivy Mann (3rd). There were 17 other winners of lesser valued prizes. We thank everyone who donated prizes for the raffle.

The branch held a committee meeting at the Courtlands Hotel on Sunday 27th January, 1990. I can now confirm that the next annual dinner-dance will take place on Saturday, 8th December, 1990 and it will again take place at the Courtlands.

HOTEL Sorrento

16 Owls Road, Boscombe, Dorset BH5 1AG

Tel: Bournemouth (0202) 394019

Proprietors Myra and Richard Titcumb
(daughter and son-in-law of former B/Const. 1486 Gerry Vaughan)

Within 80/100 yards of Courtlands Hotel

Small and very comfortable licensed hotel in the centre of town and near the sea. AA and RAC.

Ideal for weekend breaks. Four-night Christmas programme.

SOUTH MIDLANDS BRANCH

Chairman: J. H. Foster, 101 Howberry Road, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4SD. Tel: 081-954 6904.

Secretary/Treasurer: Lew H. Boffin, 13 Highworth Road, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7EG. Tel: (0367) 20225.

★

See notice at the beginning of Branch Notes section of this issue.

EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH

Chairman: G. Dack, C.P.M., 7 Dencora House, Theatre Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 1RG. Tel: (0603) 623572.

Secretary/Treasurer: C. A. (Topper) Brown, 11 Briar Lane, Swainsthorpe, Norwich, Norfolk NR14 8PJ. Tel: (0508) 470652

Committee: Messrs. J. C. (Ras) Thompson, W. (Bill) Segrue and R. W. (Ron) Postle.

★

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(H. R. NOAKES – Ex. B/Const. 931)

EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH

Chairman: H. G. Elvin, High View, 50 Violet Road, Carlton, Nottingham, NG4 3QP. Tel: (0602) 871289.

Vice-Chairman: W. Ridgard, 36 Church Road, Burton Joyce, Nottinghamshire NG14 5GG. Tel: (0602) 313361.

Secretary: H. G. Coaten, 6 Newton Avenue, Bingham, Nottinghamshire BG13 8FJ. Tel: (0949) 37907.

Treasurer: J. H. Chettle, 3 Thoresby Road, Bramcote, Nottinghamshire BG9 3EY. Tel: (0602) 255202.

Committee: Messrs D. Alexander, A. Boneham and W. Herring.

★

We suffer the loss of one of our members in the death of Cyril Coverley. (See Obituary notices – Ed.) But life goes on – as they say – and on 10th December last we held a luncheon at the Willoughby Hotel, Nottingham at which 34 members and wives attended which can be regarded as a pretty good turn out. As a matter of fact the late Cyril Coverley was one of them. We had a thoroughly good time. We now look forward to the branch dinner-dance which is set to take place at the Swallow Hotel, South Normanton, Derbyshire. It is just off the M1 at Junction 28 so it is easy to get to by motor car. Turn off left at the junction coming south or turn off right if travelling north. Those staying overnight at the hotel should mention the P.P.O.C.A. when booking. This should smooth the path or ease the situation and even facilitate the process.

H.G.C.

MIDLANDS BRANCH

The branch meets at noon on the Sunday following the third Saturday in the months of May, August and November at the United Services Club, Gough Street, Birmingham.

Chairman: Fred J. Gardiner, 14 Brampton Avenue, Hall Green, West Midlands, B28 9LG. Tel: (0217) 442640.

Vice-Chairman: John Wardle, 17 Frederick Neal Avenue, Eastern Green, Coventry CV5 7EH. Tel: (0203) 464733.

Secretary: Les G. Faulkes, 35 Home Farm Crescent, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 2QW. Tel: (0926) 332814.

Treasurer: Alf Burton, 8 Willow Drive, Desford, Leicestershire LE9 9HB. Tel: (04557) 2494.

★

East Midlands Branch

DINNER-DANCE

THE SWALLOW HOTEL

South Normanton, Derbyshire DE55 2EH

Saturday, 12th May, 1990

7.30 p.m. – 1.00 a.m.

Tickets £11.50

Accommodation at the hotel is £20.00 per person plus breakfast.
Mention P.P.O.C.A. when booking. Hotel telephone: (0773) 812000

Off M1 motorway – Junction 28

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

WISDOM FROM THE TREASURER

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

This newsletter is going out so late that the Midlands Branch second-round advertisement for our 41st annual dinner-dance will be wasted, which is regrettable enough. Details of what must be hoped as a very good function will appear in the next issue. However, by way of going through the motions of what the Branch Secretary clearly asked for, as early as 10th January last, we print the details of the event just in case by a million to one shot, the newsletter arrives on 16th March, which is one day before the scheduled date of 17th March when the dinner-dance is due to take place.

In the form of a parade order they are: Time 19.00 hours (7.00 p.m. for those born before 1950) for 19.30 hours (7.30 p.m.) sit down. Dress: informal, dancing until 1.00 a.m. Cost: £11.50 per head. Payment to Branch Secretary (above) before the event if you don't mind. (Payment in advance at all P.P. functions really does assist those who run the shows.) Accommodation at the very agreeable Kenilworth Moat House Hotel is £15.00 per person per night. This includes full English breakfast.

Editor

MERSEYSIDE AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Meets on the first Wednesday of each month at The Sergeants Mess, Liverpool Scottish Regiment, Score Lane, Liverpool 6.

Chairman: L. Adamson, 57 Alden Road, Prescot, Merseyside L34 2SG. Tel: 051 42 67198.

Vice-Chairman: H. White, 171 Bowring Park Avenue, Liverpool L16 2LE. Tel: 051 48 03724.

Secretary: A. R. Gregson, 12 Regent Avenue, Liverpool L14 6UL. Tel: 051 48 92068.

Treasurer: J. M. Thomas, 7 Rimmer Avenue, Liverpool L16 2NE. Tel: 051 48 92101.

★

See notice at the beginning of Branch Notes section of this issue.

BUT

Do not forget to support the branch dinner-dance that is set to take place at the Crest Hotel, Liverpool on Saturday 26th May, 1990. The Crest is situated in Lord Nelson Street. Tickets are a mere bagatelle and we also take the chance to remind you that on Sunday 27th May, the morning following, the Derby Sweepstake Draw will take place, also at the Crest. Do consider coming and telephone me when you do.

A.R.G.

Midlands Branch

41st ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE

KENILWORTH MOAT HOUSE HOTEL

Chelsford Bridge, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LN

SATURDAY, 17th MARCH, 1990

7.00 p.m. for 7.25 p.m. Dress Formal

Tickets: £11.50

Book early through Les Faulkes, Secretary
35 Home Farm Crescent, Whitnash, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CU31 2QW.
Telephone: 0926 332814

Book direct to hotel. Telephone Kenilworth (0926) 58331
(Bed/Breakfast £15.00 per person) With English Breakfast

When booking mention P.P.O.C.A.

Inform Branch Secretary if you are attending. Names in block capitals

Proprietor: B.P. Henwood

B. E. RIDOUT & SON

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Rear of 1087 Christchurch Road,
Boscombe East, Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 6BQ
Telephone: Bournemouth (0202) 427820

YORKSHIRE BRANCH

Chairman Emeritus: H. J. Keeton, Esq.

Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer: R. Saxon, 46 St. Paul's Road, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD5 0EX. Tel: (0484) 428247.

Vice-Chairman: T. E. Garbutt, 393 Apperley Road, Apperley Bridge, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD10 0PU. Tel: (0274) 615628.

Social Secretary: D. Bland, 28 Southwood Road, Thorn, Nr. Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN8 5QS. Tel: (0405) 813242.

Committee: Messrs J. Brown and W. Moss.

★

On Sunday, 5th November, 1989 about a dozen members of this branch gathered at the Bay Horse, Tadcaster. In many ways it was an unusual meeting because the landlord claimed he had no knowledge of our booking and we had to make do with an upstairs room. This upset our planned enjoyment but we did have the opportunity of welcoming Dave and Pat Oliver. It is not easy to get a good venue for about three meetings a year on a Sunday with food service provided. Messrs. George Brown and Eddie Garbutt have volunteered to pub crawl around to see what is on offer for the future. We still have the Green Dragon at Emley Moor of course where we have excellent service and a simply smashing room.

So it was at the Green Dragon that we held our Christmas luncheon on Saturday, 9th December. This annual event went off well and we soon found ourselves in the New Year with another meeting, also at Emley Moor on 21st January when 33 foregathered and we welcomed Bill Shenton back from hospital. (But see Sick Parade – Ed.) We have planned our 1990 programme and point out now that the annual dinner-dance will take place on Saturday, 7th April, 1990 at the Shirley Heights Suite, York Racecourse. Tickets £10.00 per head and a bargain I would say. Book early if you don't mind and I enclose a list of hotel information which should help those staying overnight.

1. Knavesmire Manor Hotel, 302 Tadcaster Road, York YO2 2HE. Tel: (0904) 702436. Overlooking racecourse. £52.00 per double (bath), £39.00 double (no bath), £39 single (with facilities). Bed and breakfast.
2. Carlton House Hotel, 134 The Mount, York. Tel: (0904) 622265. £15.00 double with shower, £14.00 single no facilities. Bed and breakfast.
3. Tyburn House Hotel, Albermarle Road, The Mount, York. Tel: (0904) 655069. £17.50 per person double room en suite, bed and breakfast. £13.50 per person, single or double, basic.
4. Newington Hotel, 147 Mount Vale, York. Tel: (0904) 625173. £27.50 per person single room, £22.50 per person double room with facilities. Bed and breakfast.

We have heard from Mrs. Emma Moore while she was on holiday in Nice with a friend. Mrs. Eva Steads who wrote for her husband Harry. Dennis Usher of Middlesbrough, and of course many others from outside our area. This brings me to the annual "nag". Subscriptions are due for those who have not already renewed them. Association subscriptions which makes you a fully paid up member of the P.P.O.C.A., as well as branch subscriptions which makes you a member of this branch. As far as I can see only about half a dozen or so remain unpaid.

R.S.

Yorkshire Branch

DINNER/DANCE

SHIRLEY HEIGHTS SUITE
YORK RACE COURSE RESTAURANT

Saturday, 7th April, 1990

6.30 p.m. Tickets £10.00

Tickets from branch social secretary
Telephone: Thorne 813242

Advice on hotel bookings through branch chairman
Telephone: York 769032

See also hotels' information in Branch Notes

MERSEYSIDE BRANCH

29th ANNUAL

DINNER/DANCE

CREST HOTEL
Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool

—— 0 ——

Saturday, 26th May, 1990

—— 0 ——

Dress informal

Book early through:
Alf Gregson, Secretary
12 Regent Avenue, Liverpool L14 6UL
Telephone: 051-489 2068

SCOTTISH BRANCH

Chairman: C. Kennedy, West Lodge, Clayton, St. Andrews, Fife KY16 9YE. Tel: (0334) 87242.

Secretary/Treasurer: J. Lindsay, 2 Lomond Bank, Glenfarg, Perthshire PH12 9PF. Tel: (05773) 382.

Hon. Chaplain to the Branch: The Very Rev. Professor R. Craig, C.B.E., Hon.C.F. (former Moderator of the Church of Scotland, and former Minister of Scottish Memorial Church of St. Andrew in Jerusalem.)

★

See notice at the beginning of Branch Notes section of this issue.

AUSTRALIA (New South Wales Branch)

Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer: A. V. Leadbetter, 48a Kingslangley Road, Greenwich, New South Wales 2965, Australia.

★

We are at least getting some nice sunny weather. On 7th October, 1989, we arranged a picnic to meet Katina Shand and her friend Kate from Coogee. The two ladies seem to be enjoying their down-under stay. Bill Leadbetter brought them to the scene, and we had chosen as picnic-ground a place in the Forest of Tranquility which is about one hour's drive out of Sydney. Others who came were Arch and Sue Leadbetter, Tom and Betty Harney, Harry and Betty Steel, Mary Bidmead, Eve Wright, Myra Jeffrey, Joe Kremer, Iris Ormsby and myself (Frank). We spent a pleasant afternoon strolling and enjoying the forest tracks.

On 22nd October, Bill Anderson came south from Queensland and he entertained Joe Kremer, Iris and myself to lunch. Not long ago, I telephoned Nigel Hall and we had a long chat. The branch Christmas lunch took place on 3rd December at the Curzon Hall and details will appear in the next issue. Arch Leadbetter has been in touch with John Wonham of 4 Camelot, 50 Thelma Street, Toowoon Bay, N.S.W. 2261. He accidentally bumped into our chaps preparing for the Cenotaph Parade when visiting London and spent the rest of the day with them. We have news that Gabriella, granddaughter of Umberto Pernetta of Oberammergau is somewhere in the South Pacific touring on a motorbike with a group. If and when she surfaces in or around Sydney, accommodation is on offer with the Leadbetter family. I am pleased to announce by way of a Palace Bulletin, that Archie Leadbetter is feeling much better after his recent ailments.

F.L.O.

AUSTRALIA (Victoria Branch)

Chairman: A. C. W. (Allan) Bolton, 7 Bowen Street, Richmond, Victoria 3121.

Vice-Chairman: R. L. (Reg) Priestley, 4 Cliffdale Avenue, Deception Bay, Queensland 4508.

Secretary: Frank Baines, 7/10 Dickens Street, Elwood, Victoria 3184. Tel: 534 6510.

Treasurer: Cedric Coxsedge, 8 Leicester Street, North Balwyn, Victoria 3104.

Committee: Messrs. W. W. E. P. (Gus) Hardy, Arthur Judd, Pat Kelliher and S. A. (Sidney) Mann.

★

Our annual dinner-social evening took place on 25th November, 1989 at the Victoria Police Association Club, now located in new premises in Mackenzie Street, Melbourne, right behind Russell Street Police Station for those who wish to know it. The Annual General Meeting also took place at this place and date. The branch is in good shape and by way of example we enjoyed a good lunch at the Load of Bull on 6th September last. A small group of us were back at the same place on 19th October when Paddy Stewart dropped in from New Zealand and we had dinner there. He regaled us with the goings on at the Big London Weekend earlier in the month and brought back a load of P.P. ties for us, for which we thanked him.

My wife and I (Allan and Fleur Bolton) barged into Tom and Jane Regan recently and we chatted. We have heard from Gerald Green (Gloucestershire), Sam Sumner (Lee Green, London), Robin Bathgate (Adelaide), and Paddy Erskine, who is leaving this neck of the woods for the U.K. and I should state at this juncture that we are sorry to lose him. (Like being on a transfer in Force Orders – Ed.)

A.C.W.B.

We have also heard from our old friend E. C. (Winnie) Sharp of 7/1 Ireland Street, Burwood, Victoria 3125 who in a letter as far back as 13th August last, kindly donated his Service Register for our archives. Such treasures as these are also received with pleasure and we must thank "Winnie" for his kind thought. We note his considerable service in Palestine extended from The Depot, Hebron, Beit Jibrin then to the P.M.F. at Jenin Depot where he became embroiled with the intricacies of Chief Clerk Pay and Administration. Much too deep for many of us but of course it proves that Winnie could read and write, always a powerful means of advancement in the Colonial World. Once again many thanks for a generous bit of memorabilia to be kept safe and secure for the future.

Finally there is the cataclysmic event of Paddy Stewart passing through the branch area or sort of Second Coming as it were. Even more it was something like Ulysses's long journey home from Troy which took him ten years. In Paddy's case it looks like about two weeks. He arrived by all accounts on a night flight from Singapore. After greeting grandchildren and other very important persons he

snatched a breakfast, failed to get a few hours sleep and was instead whizzed off to Melbourne Naval Base where his son-in-law is in the Australian Submarine Service. There was much alcoholically fortified conviviality we are told so that Paddy was understandably exhausted. We are all concerned that one of our number should be treated in such a fashion. The concern is called envy. It was two days later, following full recovery that the Victoria branch claimed him for their own gathering in his honour. Paddy reports that this was well attended by Arthur New, Alan Bolton, Frank Baines, Cedric Coxsedge, and an old comrade called Mann, states Paddy, surely to be identified with Sidney Mann, and another whose name he is unable to recall. But Mary Gow was there too and some pleasant chats took place. Later on his way to his daughter's house the train got stuck. He got back eventually to Auckland, N.Z. late and we understand convalescence started at once.

Editor

AUSTRALIA (Western Australia Branch)

Chairman: S. G. Thompson, 25 Tamarisk Way, Woodlands, Western Australia 6018.

Secretary/Treasurer: Charles Eadon-Clarke, 9 Sutherland Close, Guildford, Western Australia 6055.

★

By the time this gets to the printers, the W.A branch will have held its yearly meeting about which more next time. We are still suffering from the loss of Roger Brooks which came all too suddenly. Meanwhile we have been doing some detective work in these parts. Sandy and Nancy Morrison have been traced and added to our local posting list. Sandy is now on our membership list (Force No. 2121 of 1947 vintage by the way) and he lives at 58 Goomalling Road, Northam, Western Australia. (No postcode available – Ed.)

C.E-C.

NEW ZEALAND BRANCH (Auckland)

Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer: N. S. (Paddy) Stewart, 39 Walter Street, Takapuna, Auckland 9, New Zealand. Tel: 010-649-463 485.

★

This Chairman-Secretary-Treasurer person travelled a few thousand miles last October, chiefly to attend the annual Cenotaph parade in London, but then to call into the State of Victoria, Down-underland on my way home, which is more or less reported under Victoria Branch news. I was thus A.W.L. from this branch while all that was going on. Let me say at this stage that I really enjoyed the dinner and parade and was greatly surprised and pleased to see such a good attendance at both. All credit to the chaps on Central Council.

Now for some local news. We had an invitation to a barbecue lunch about two weeks ago (letter dated 14th December, 1989) by the British South Africa Police Association and Northern Rhodesia Police Association (New Zealand branches, etc.). Only John Barnett and I were able to attend to represent this O.C.A., accompanied by our ladies of course. It was a pretty good party and the four of us were given a great welcome. We were introduced to the British Trade Commissioner, a chap called Carter, who was there with his lady. On hearing that John and I were former P.P. Mrs. Carter said that her father, named Robertson, was in the P.M.F. We did not get his first name. So now we have a reference to an unidentified old comrade who, according to the General Secretary, could be one of the following: 3134, 2042, 2655, 16, 3669, 4008 or an A.S.P. of that name. Not a lot to go on, particularly as all those given have either resigned or lapsed from our great band. Any ideas?

Auckland has been invaded with round the world yacht enthusiasts. Will give news of any gathering we have in our summer season. (Nice idea to join with other O.C.A.s for some social events – Ed.)

N.S.S.

AFRICA

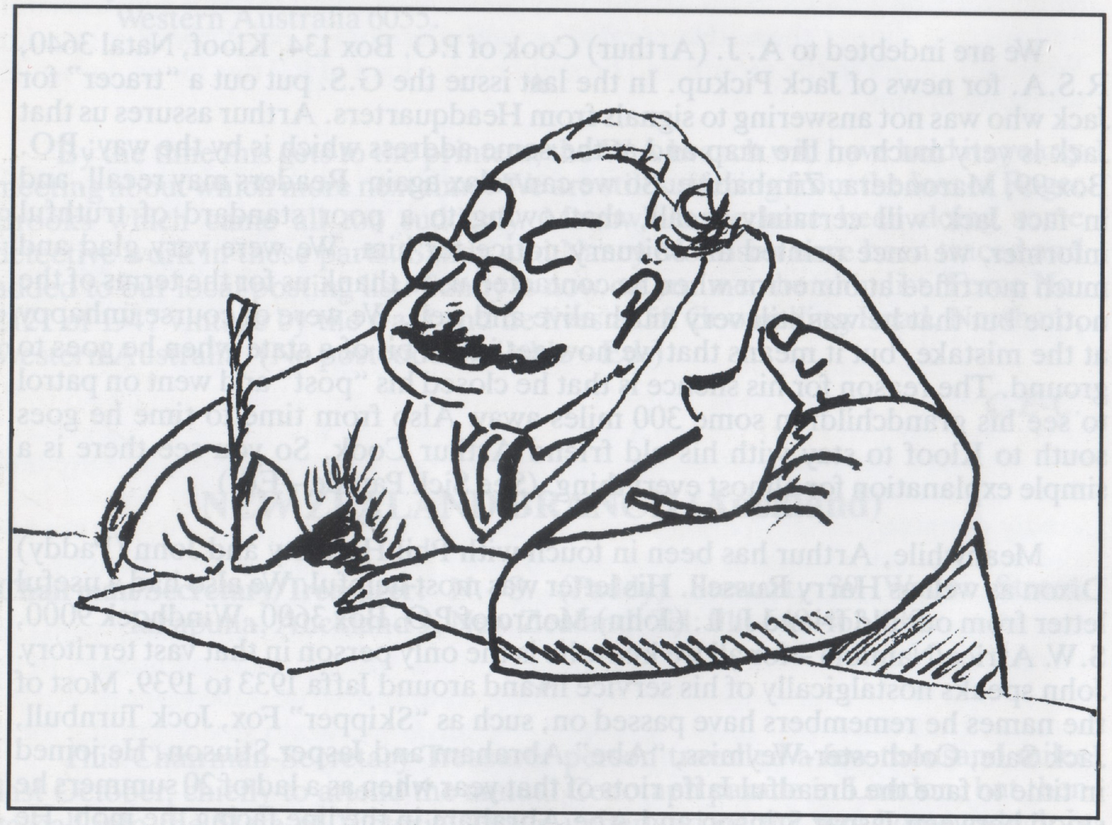
We are indebted to A. J. (Arthur) Cook of P.O. Box 134, Kloof, Natal 3640, R.S.A. for news of Jack Pickup. In the last issue the G.S. put out a "tracer" for Jack who was not answering to signals from Headquarters. Arthur assures us that Jack is very much on the map and at the same address which is by the way: P.O. Box 99, Marondera, Zimbabwe. So we can relax again. Readers may recall, and in fact Jack will certainly recall, that owing to a poor standard of truthful informer, we once printed an obituary notice for him. We were very glad and much mortified at our error when he contacted us to thank us for the terms of the notice but that he was still very much alive and well. We were of course unhappy at the mistake, but it means that we now get into a bit of a state when he goes to ground. The reason for his silence is that he closed his "post" and went on patrol to see his grandchildren some 300 miles away. Also from time to time he goes south to Kloof to stay with his old friend Arthur Cook. So you see there is a simple explanation for almost everything. (See Sick Parade – Ed.)

Meanwhile, Arthur has been in touch with Phil Hardisty and John (Paddy) Dixon as well as Harry Russell. His letter was most helpful. We also had a useful letter from our old friend J. L. (John) Monro of P.O. Box 3600, Windhoek 9000, S.W. Africa/Namibia – for all we know he is the only person in that vast territory. John speaks nostalgically of his service in and around Jaffa 1933 to 1939. Most of the names he remembers have passed on, such as "Skipper" Fox, Jock Turnbull, Jack Sale, Colchester-Weymiss, "Abe" Abraham and Jasper Stinson. He joined in time to face the dreadful Jaffa riots of that year when as a lad of 20 summers he stood between Jaspar Stinson and Abe Abraham in the line facing the mob. He learned hard and well and went on to serve in senior police positions in other territories in the course of which he faced other riots in other places and his schooling in Palestine stood him in good stead. Thank you John, you of a very distant place, for your letter.

Mrs. Ann Brennan of 8 Notgrove Avenue, Cotswold, Port Elizabeth 6045 also wrote and that is her new address where she lives with her eldest son, Jim. As a matter of fact she is not far from Theresa Cable, Maxie Cable's widow with whom Ann and her late husband Paddy have been good friends for many years. Ann hopes to be passing through the U.K. within the next year or so. Let's hope she does. With a repeat of our recent gales, she will simply whizz through. Finally, from the African fraternity we have a letter from Peter South of P.O. Box 137, Famona, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe and we are delighted to say that he has enclosed some of his Palestine memories for us all to ponder over. By way of an aside, it does seem from his letter that Peter and his family are happy and settled where they are and this is good news in itself.

Editor

APOLOGIES TO BRIAN ROBB, 8th ARMY ARTIST



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MORE ABOUT THE HULEH

The article by Matey Martin in the December issue of the Newsletter (No. 157 – Ed.) certainly rang a very resounding bell with me as well as bringing to my mind one of the happiest periods of my life. When I finished my recruits course at Scopus, I was posted to Nazareth District, or to be more exact, Safed Division. I wonder if there was some sort of message in that posting because a little further north I would have been in the French Foreign Legion. This was in November 1939 in the times of Messrs. Medlock, Reat, Ridley, Talbot and Lavender Joe Connoly. In my lowly position as youngest and most junior in the division I naturally fell heir to the menial duties that nobody else wanted. Not that it worried me as I was quite happy in my ignorance. These duties included Billet Orderly at such places as Scots College, the Magistrates' Court and the Serrai Mounted Billet.

It was during my first night duty at Scots College that I had my first encounter with the leopard, George, of whom I had not heard a word until then as Africa was the place for leopards, I thought. I did not know they existed in Syria at that time. It was after midnight as I sat at the desk facing the open door and my mind was miles away. I was relaxed and happy. Suddenly there appeared at the open door, a leopard. It took me a few seconds to realise that I was face to face with a real live leopard which was staring at me. The leopard appeared less surprised than I was. It's a fact that in moments of stress, the human mind works at phenomenal speed, and mine was doing "the knots" in the few seconds we stared at each other. My duty .45 was in its holster hanging over the back of my chair. Should I make a grab for it and take a desperate shot at it? No! If I fired I would very likely miss, the leopard would vanish and I would be left to answer to a couple of dozen nude and semi nude coppers tumbling down the stairs, fully armed and ready to repel attack. How could I say that I had seen a leopard at the door? No beast and no body. While these thoughts were passing through my mind, the leopard nonchalantly ambled through the door without as much as a glance at me and went straight through the recreation room door which was wide open.

My next thought was, should I nip down smartly from the safety of the desk and close the "rec" room door, thereby securing the leopard? Again no! What if the damned beast decided to come out again just as I reached the door? Could I possibly, by a standing jump, reach the overhead lamp? Some more rapid thought told me that a silly ass behind the desk was better than one hanging from the lamp. I tore my eyes away from the rec room door and reached for the telephone, having decided to face ridicule rather than sit all night watching the door.

I telephoned the police station and explained my position to the duty constable and was immensely relieved to be told "that's Dick Ridley's pet leopard 'George' and he wanders about during the night. That's why we get no unwelcome visitors at Scots College. But for God's sake watch that he doesn't get a hold of Brant's monkey as he has a thing about the monkey." Years afterwards I would learn that monkey meat is the leopard's favourite food.

As regards Matey's version of the Huleh royal family, I have very good reason to recall another opinion. During my "breaking in" period, there was an

occasion when the telephone operators of Safed decided to go on strike for some reason or other, and it was left to the Palestine Police to man the exchange during the emergency. It was like sitting at a piano except that there were bells ringing and little flaps dropping with numerous red cables which I gathered had to be inserted into the various holes which appeard under the flaps. One discovered from the earphones one had to wear which number was required. I had been installed during a lunch period and things went alright for a few minutes. Then business started to pick up and I was inundated with bells, flaps and cables to the extent that I started to work on a first come, first served principle. It was only a matter of minutes until I heard a familiar heavy tread on the stairway and Lavender Joe appeared at my back, and shouted "Hold it, hold it." And after a tirade he found time to tell me that I had just connected Kamal Hussein, King of Huleh to the Jewish Agency representative in Safed. So I tend to have my own idea of who the King of the Huleh really was and who reigned supreme at Khalsa and was Chief of the Sagr bedouins, I believe.

Anyway it gives me great pleasure to recall the various happenings in Safed and the frontier region and I can even remember the names of my comrades of the period and I could write for days and enjoy every recollection. Perhaps Matey would be interested in my version.

Angus Montgomery
(Dogmaster ult)

SOME STRANGE GOINGS ON

Not many old comrades who served in Nablus know that just outside the place, some three kilometres eastward on the Sahl Mukhnah, a great battle once took place. The occasion was during the Maccabean revolt and the year was 170 B.C. On the plain just east of Schechem 1,000 cavalry and 8,000 mercenary men of foot reinforced by loyal Jews made up an army of about 10,000 men on the government side, the government being of the Selucid faction intent on putting down a Jewish revolt. The insurgent side had 3,000 cavalry and could parade 14,000 infantry which gave them a numerical advantage. By all accounts the day was a hard slogging match and the result is not so clearly known as the circumstances of the actual battle.

But these were disturbing times and as the revolt progressed, efforts to put it down also became more desperate. In 198 B.C. we are told that Schechem was occupied by Syrian soldiers (who were really Syrian born Greeks) sent by Antiochus III (the Great) who was master of the area at the time. He planned to seize Jerusalem and as his army marched south he made use of elephants in his striking force. The 2nd Book of Maccabees in the Apocrypha, Chapters 11 and 13 give ample reference to the existence and presence of elephants. It must surely have been the first occasion that the Samaritan citizens of Schechem who may just have heard of elephants were now actually to see these noble creatures dressed overall in the panoplies of war, shambling through their city on their way southwards to the battle zone.

Elephants had been reported on the battle fields of Asia long before Hannibal ben Hamilcar (Hanni-baal or Grace of God) made use of them in the long and painful journey from Spain through Gaul and over the Alps into Italy to subsequently startle and it is said, to terrify, the Roman infantry. The mighty Roman army may have been "miffed" by the sight of these huge animals but apparently not the defenders of Jerusalem in 198 B.C., just a few years earlier. It is recorded by observers that some gallant lads full of derring-do rushed between the legs of the elephants so as to stab upwards into the belly area, then to roll away quickly before suffering from a three ton fall. A sort of early Kamikazi situation, I suggest.

What has been the subject of a great debate since those times are such questions as: Where did these elephants come from? It is doubtful whether the Carthaginians could have got the big African variety from south of the Sahara, even though the Sahara Desert in those days was but half the size it is today. African elephants are alleged to be particularly ill tempered and with no tradition for pacification and domesticity essential to the elephant enthusiast and common qualities in Asia for something like 3,000 years.

All schoolboys know that Alexander the Great found elephants in India and marvelled at their use as fetching and carrying heavy loads. In fact one did not have to go as far as India to seek out the elephant which could be found in Persia and were already in use by Persian armies. The Syrian races copied the Persians and acquired elephants from time to time and we are told the drivers were called "Indois" presumably a useful word for "Indians". So if Hannibal used Indian elephants, then how did he get them across the water to Spain? Spain being the start point of his campaign. What shipping facilities did the Phoenician sailors have to carry the world's largest land animal from wherever to wherever to say nothing of loading and unloading problems? These great issues may never be resolved, but just the same one is left to wonder how many Nablus based mounted columns in our day in Palestine after setting out from Nablus Rural "Nick" and passing eastwards just beyond Balata village into the Sahl Mukhnah area knew they were riding along the ancient elephant route of Antiochus III? Even more, how many of them knew they were on the site of the battle between two power groups? As the columns rode towards such villages as Deir el Hatab, Rujeib, Awarta, Beit Furik and Yanoun, or those strange twins, Beita el Fouqa and Beita el Tahta, the former being several feet higher than the latter. The former being of Arab origin from the Moslem conquest and the latter being descendants of yeoman Canaanites, Assyrians or even Samaritan stock. Did any of these old comrades know of, or feel vibrations of violent historic events having taken place beneath the shoes of their horses and all so old in time as to be quite lost in many history books? One doubts it.

But in due time other events made their mark in Nablus and I have in mind the time in 1944 when Doc Tullett won the British Police Walking Backwards competition which took place between Nablus Urban Police Station along the main road as far as the Rural Police Station which was located in the Deboyah, a distance of just upwards from half a mile or so. Doc won the event easily if for no other reason than that he was the only entrant. This in itself is not all that significant as it was not a competition that ranked in the forefront of the many grim trials of strength, endurance, stamina and guts that featured so highly in

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British sports programmes in Palestine. In fact, until 1944 the competition did not exist and it only came about, because someone was drunk, or at least drunkish, or shall we just say a bit tiddley. That moment of alcoholic euphoria being the precise moment that the entrant decided to make his way home by walking backwards. The rest of the party, including myself, returned to billet in more orthodox fashion, following the contestant making an erratic progress past houses, shops, the mosque, a cemetery, the C.I.D., office and home.

We noticed that just as an earlier population must have looked askance at elephants tramping past their front door, so the modern citizens of Nablus studied the procession with keen interest. Their comments are not a subject of public record. In my view curious stares would be an understatement. It was well known of course that the Engleezi were often eccentric but was this carrying things a bit too far? As far as I know the competition was not repeated.

These two events lead me gently into a third. On a certain day, which memory suggests was 1945, word came through that a small Lebanese circus was making its way southwards from somewhere in the north to somewhere in the south and would stop for the night in Nablus to rest. In due time some dilapidated vehicles arrived and George Head, a member of our Traffic Section in gleaming parade turn-out in the manner of all members of the Traffic Section, astride a powerful Indian motorcycle, guided the creaking convoy to a pre-selected position at the side of the road near Balatah just east of town. There was a great deal of bustle as the circus staff settled down for the night. They cooked food, fed animals and made things secure and of course exercised those creatures demanded by nature to be in need of a stroll after being cooped up in a lorry. I recall a creature of unknown species to me. It had a longish neck like a llama, horns like a goat and mangy skin. It ate grass of which there was not much to be seen and deposited blackish droppings of dung in rough proportion to the grass consumed. Some sort of fair exchange I daresay. (Or should I have said circus exchange?) There were a couple of horses which seemed pleased to be free to exercise. A pack of performing dogs yapped all the time but might otherwise have been quite clever at various tricks which would redeem themselves to some extent. But I was particularly pleased to see a young elephant come into view.

I watched this beloved above all other creature as she (or he – or even it) was eased from the confines of its ancient lorry. She (he or it, etc) came out backwards. I gather the idea was to take the elephant "walkies" towards the old Turkish fort and the Rural Tegart, but for some reason the elephant's computer was locked into a walk backwards syndrome which the keeper had considerable difficulty to rectify. He did manage to turn it and while circling the animal looked in the general direction it was intended to go but then after a few gaits would turn again and shamble back in an otherwise dainty back-step insofar as an elephant can walk backwards at all. It was certainly nervous of something and appeared not to trust those behind it urging it on, preferring to turn and face them instead.

So by now one is forced to the view that Nablus, or its residents, have seen just about everything. Two thousand years ago it saw elephants. That is one thing. Then 45 years ago it saw a lone British policeman walking backwards through the town. That is something else. These two events became locked together when, 44 years ago, an elephant walked backwards. All this is pure trivia of course, but

remember Nablus is the place that had the talking trees of the Bible – the Olive, the Fig, the Vine and the Bramble. Just suppose its ancient stones could talk also. They would have plenty to talk about in a town that must be nearly 5,000 years old. There are plenty of stones to be sure in any Palestinian city that could do the same, but how many stones would have observed the three phenomena just described? Very few I think. The most sensible thing about this article is it really does not matter.

Onbashi

OBITUARY NOTICES

It is with deep regret that I have to record the death at the age of 83 of my old friend C. A. R. (Lawrie) Lawrence, after a long period of illness and immobility which he bore with stoic cheerfulness. Lawrie spent his early childhood in Uganda where his father was Commissioner of Police. He was educated at Brighton College where he was a leading member of the school's cricket and rugger teams during a period of unparalleled games success and later went up to Cambridge. He left the university to go into business and later became a prep schoolmaster. He joined the Palestine Police in 1935 and was promoted in due time to A.S.P. and later to D.S.P., before being transferred to Malaya in 1947.

In Palestine he was a force cricketer and rugger player of outstanding renown during the 1930s and early 1940s and captained force teams against leading British and Australian military sides. During his time in Palestine he served with distinction in Nablus, police headquarters, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Gaza and Nazarath. He took his valuable experience of emergency work to Malaya and retired from the colonial police when Malaya became independent. He then worked for some ten years with the Central Office of Information in London dealing with overseas visitors. Always a keen golfer, on retirement he became playing captain of the Chislehurst Golf Club.

He died peacefully at home in Beckenham on 1st January, 1990 and his funeral at Beckenham was attended by Michael Hills, David Niven, Fred Pays, Cabby Walters, Ron Turner and myself. David Niven represented the Association President, Brigadier J. M. Rymer Jones. Representatives of the Malaya Police were also present, in addition to a large number of friends. Lawrie was a popular officer with a keen sense of humour and will be sadly missed by his many friends.

Our thoughts and sympathy go to his widow, Miriam and his son, Christopher and family.

Kenneth (George) Hadingham

The passing of former D.S.P. Claude Anthony Reginald Lawrence C.P.M. cannot go without mentioning to all readers and not just his many friends, the great debt our old force owed to a sportsman of his calibre. Claude, who was often known as "Lawrie", as well as "Car" from his initials, joined on 26th October, 1935 to be precise and was soon a great power in both cricket XI and rugby XV. He virtually had a space for himself in the old force magazine so that together with other cricket giants of his day, such as Messrs. Price, Fletcher, Gallanders, Edy, Pierce and Cannings, backed up strongly by Wilmhurst, Reeves, Robinson and Catlin, the force had a side that sometimes seemed unchallengeable. All this before a later generation brought others of the Bowerbank class. In all this Lawrence stands out as a natural leader and a strong captain. So we have lost a leading name from our pantheon of sportsmen, someone to whom we all looked up to as a man, as a senior officer and as a gentleman of unbounded qualities. We are very sorry indeed that he is no longer with us yet proud that he served in our great force. On behalf of all readers I extend condolences to his widow and his son and family.

Edward Horne

I regret to have to record the death of George V. J. Lancaster of 1 Oaklands, Mersham Road, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NE who died on Friday, 29th December, 1989. George first served in the Buffs (the East Kent Regiment) from 1931 to 1938, then joined the Palestine Police in 1938. I first met George when we were billeted together in Carrasso Billet in Jaffa in 1939. We found we lived just a few miles from each other in the U.K. (Kent) and we had been mates ever since. George married a local girl, Susie, whom I also knew. He was what can best be described as a dedicated policeman and took his job very seriously. He suffered an eye injury during the riots in Tel Aviv in 1939 at the outbreak of war when he was hit by a brick. He was later invalided out of the force and he brought Susie home to Kent. My wife and I often saw them in Ashford and at their home.

George was a regular attender at the Cardinal, the Annual Reunion Dinner and the Cenotaph parade as well as all local functions until ill health overtook him some years ago. He had cancer of the throat as well as a collapsed lung and two replacement hips. A cremation service took place at Charing on Wednesday 10th January, 1990 and ten members of the Association attended. A guard of honour was formed and the coffin was draped with the P.P. flag which George had made some years ago for just such a purpose. The Holy City was sung at the start of the service and copies were printed so that everyone knew the words.

George leaves a son, Paul, his daughter-in-law, Lynda, and two grandchildren, to all of whom we offer our deepest sympathy. Ma Salaami, George.

Charlie Heathfield

It is our duty to inform Old Comrades of the death of former B/Sgt. 524 Roger T. Brooks, M.B.E., of 10 Stirling Terrace, Albany, Western Australia 6330 on 12th December, 1989. Roger had not been all that well last year, having had two operations, but then recently caught "flu" which developed into pneumonia and this was too much for his system and he died peacefully.

Roger came from Brighton in Sussex and joined the force on 16th June, 1941 and with nine others sailed for Palestine. This number included Ted Horne, David Bagshaw, Desmond Crafter and Bill Hawley who are the only ones left alive. Two being buried in Palestine and two in Malaya. We formed a small squad of ten and friendships have withstood the test of time. Although a former Coldstream Guardsman, Roger had an eye for the horses and passed out top of his class at Beisan before transferring to the Mounted Branch where he served mostly at Beit Jibrin and Hebron before joining the "G" Squad at police headquarters. As chairman of the Western Australian branch, Paddy Thompson first knew Roger in Jerusalem in 1946 and found him an efficient, capable and popular police officer. After Palestine Roger went onto Malaya and then Fiji. He migrated to Australia for a short time before accepting a position in the prison service at Papua, New Guinea, following which he took another post in the Seychelles where he established a police training school. Finally, he served first in the U.K., then in Germany on confidential duties associated with the Royal Air Force.

At last, and about four years ago, he returned to Australia and settled near his daughter in Albany. Roger and his wife, Jocelyn, have two sons, the eldest served with the S.A.S. and now lives in Canberra, his daughter and her husband and family live nearby and their youngest son has also joined them in the area. Their names being Simon, Serena and Mark respectively. In October 1988 Roger and Paddy achieved something they had planned for a long time. They were together on parade in Whitehall and marched down to the Cenotaph together. It was a splendid occasion and something Paddy will cherish for years.

There was a funeral service for Roger on Friday, 15th December which was a very moving experience. The Holy City was played as the coffin arrived in the chapel. Both his sons, Simon and Mark, wore P.P. ties and the Association was represented by Paddy and Eleanor Thompson. We extend our deepest sympathy to the entire family. Roger will be deeply missed from a life of continuous service as a soldier, policeman, adminstrator and steadfast comrade. The remaining four of that small squad in Jerusalem will remember Roger with special affection.

Paddy Thompson and Ted Horne

It is with deep regret that we must record the death of John Albert Percival Briance C.M.G. who died on 2nd December, 1989 in London. John was born in 1915, so he was 74 when he died. There had been some correspondence between us in recent months when he was kind enough to keep us informed of some former Arab members of the force who dwelled in Jordan. He joined the Palestine Police in June 1936 as B/Const. 496 and was an Inspector during the war years. Promoted to A.S.P. by 1945 and Acting D.S.P. by 1947. He will be best remembered in those years by those who served at Jerusalem, Ramallah, Abu Ghosh and finally C.I.D. headquarters. After the stand down, John joined the

diplomatic service and enjoyed such postings as Tehran, British Middle East Office, Washington and Singapore. In between these places he held posts at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. He was awarded his C.M.G. in 1960. He retired in 1970.

There was a thanksgiving service at St. Mary Abbots Church, Kensington, London W8 on Friday, 12th January, 1990 at which a magnificent address was given by the Reverend Halsey Colchester, C.M.G. The Association was represented by Sir Richard Catling, C.M.G., O.B.E., K.P.M., an Association Vice-President, D. Cartwright Esq., M.B.E., C.P.M. and S. W. Hills Esq., K.P.M., B.E.M., both of Central Council. Not only was John Briance a professional diplomat but he was a fine ambassador for our old force and his death comes as a great blow.

He leaves a widow, Penelope, who showed her appreciation that we had been represented at the service, and a son Richard. He also had a daughter Alison and a large number of grandchildren, to all of whom we offer them our sincere condolences.

Edward Horne

Old depot hands in particular will be greatly saddened to learn of the death of Thomas John (Paddy) Bamford in a nursing home near Brighton on 22nd November, 1989. We were both guardsmen and joined the force in May 1937. After service on the Northern Frontier, Paddy was for several years a revolver instructor at Mount Scopus. He then transferred to Tel Aviv and after that to the Police Mobile Force as Head Constable, eventually rising to the rank of A.S.P. It was while Constable 1049 that he earned one of the first issues of the Colonial Police Medal for Gallantry which was published in the London Gazette of 3rd January, 1939. It was particularly well earned.

At the end of the mandate in Palestine, Paddy served for a short time in West Africa before returning to the U.K., into private employment in the West Country. About ten years ago he moved to Surrey so as to live near his brother and sister-in-law and it was then that we resumed our friendship in regular weekly lunch-time sessions. Paddy was one of those fine Irishmen that served us so well in the force and praise comes no higher. I always enjoyed his company but it became noticeable in 1987 that his health was beginning to deteriorate and when the family moved to Brighton at the end of the year, it was not long before I learned that he had entered a nursing home. Because of my own move to Northumberland I am afraid I lost touch until I was informed by telephone of Paddy's death. We had been very close and I am going to miss him greatly. A funeral service took place at the Downs Crematorium, Brighton on 28th November and a floral tribute from the Association in the force colours rested on the coffin. When the family arrived they were impressed by the guard of honour formed by Terry Shand, Micky Hills from Central Council and Ernie DeVal from S.W. Counties and Maurice Hill and Albert Hawkridge from the local branch. The Association will sadly miss such a character as Paddy and we send our heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends.

Walter Kirton

We regret to have to inform friends and former colleagues that ex-B/Const. 1978 W. P. H. (Bill) Evans died in Toronto, Canada on 29th October, 1989 after a long and painful illness. He joined the Palestine Police in December 1938 leaving in December 1945. During that period he served in Nazareth, Tiberias, Ramle, Petah Tiqvah and Latrun usually on the Transport Branch. Also in that time he met and married Miriam in Palestine. After leaving the force he continued with employment in Palestine before emigrating to Canada. His last address was 14 Chantry Court, West Hill, Toronto, Ontario M1E 4V3.

Bill was not a member of the Association but he was a close friend of Alan and Nancy Guest, Noel and Rina Davies and Fred and Jean Plunkett, all of whom attended his funeral. My wife Joan and I (Don Cartwright) met Bill frequently at P.P. gatherings during our three years in Toronto and his quiet Welsh sense of humour and devotion to his family are outstanding memories of a loyal and sincere friend. Our heartfelt and sincere sympathy goes out to his widow, Miriam, and their children, Edna, Daphne, Anita and David and their families.

Donald Cartwright and Alan Guest

The death took place in early November 1989 of ex-B/Const. 3351, Bernard (Paddy) Trainor following a heart attack. He was 61 years of age. He had lived at 33 Auckland Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent. Paddy served for two years in the Palestine Police and was one of the 500 or so who remained after the mandate ended. On returning to the U.K., he joined the Metropolitan Police and served at Bow Street, West End Central and Tottenham police stations. All "front line" stations, so that following his well earned retirement he obtained local employment with the Sittingbourne District Council in the Housing Department. He was a member of the South East Counties Branch, but although he kept in touch he preferred to remain in the background and took no part in social activities.

A funeral service took place at the Vintner Crematorium, near Maidstone on 16th November, 1989 whereat the Association was represented by David Niven and myself. On behalf of everyone I extend our deepest sympathy to his widow, Janet and their daughter, Mary. We are particularly grateful to those mourners who donated a total of £100 to the P.P.O.C.A. in lieu of flowers.

Michael Hills

I have sad news of an old comrade and good friend, former B/Sgt. 2673 Roland S. Lynn-Robinson who died peacefully on 20th December, 1989 at St. Catherine's Hospice, Crawley, Sussex at the age of 79. I did not know "Lynn" in Palestine but have been told he joined the force 17th February, 1939 and was a life member of this Association. I know he spent some of his service at Central Police Station in Jerusalem. I first met him in September 1948 when we both joined the Kenya police and we served together at Mombasa and Nyeri. When I got married

in Mombasa, Lynn was my best man. He subsequently went on transfer to Somaliland and later when he returned to the U.K., he joined the home civil service. Regretfully, his dear wife Mary died three years ago after a long illness. They met in Palestine and Mary had been a member of the Queen Alexandra's Nursing Service and they were married in Jerusalem. There was a funeral service on 3rd January at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium at Crawley at which I was present and so was able to represent all old comrades. I offer my deepest sympathy to "Lynn's" friends and his former colleagues.

Eric Burnell

We are indebted to Mr. Steven Rann for the sad news of the death of his father William James Percival Rann, formerly B/Const. 2734 who died on Friday, 5th January, 1990 at the young age of 61. He lived at 15 Le Marchant Close, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 5EZ and had but recently rejoined the Association last July (Newsletter 157, Page 62 refers – Ed.). Bill Rann is believed to have spent much of his service in Haifa and joined the force after the war. After returning to England he re-joined the Wiltshire Police, having earlier been a cadet, from which he eventually retired with the rank of Chief Superintendent in charge of traffic and communications. We are so sorry to learn of his death and offer our deepest sympathy to his widow, Josephine and son, Steven, in their great loss and leave them with the thought that although not long in Palestine, he was a specially good chap to even get into the force. His death is deeply regretted. There was a funeral service in Salisbury at which the Association was represented by Pam and myself.

Lew Boffin

It has fallen upon me to inform Old Comrades of the death of a colleague, namely former B/Const. Bernard Peter Cavanagh. He was 73. Bernard was born in Wrexham and in due time became a regular soldier. Then he joined the Palestine Police in the mid-1930s and served through the Arab troubles until the outbreak of war when he returned to the army and joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in which he served until demobilisation. After a short time as a bus driver, he found employment with the Post Office in Shrewsbury. His greatest claim to prominence came through the realisation of an ambition to start a career in rifle shooting, a sport in which he was devoted. He founded the Shrewsbury Postal Rifle Club and was its secretary and captain for 36 years. He shot annually at Bisley from 1959 to 1985 and represented the Welsh XX in the national and the VII in the Mackinnon matches and he also shot for the counties of Staffordshire and Shropshire on occasions. In more recent years his eyesight suffered which must have been particularly sad for him. There is no record that he joined this Association but nonetheless he is a departed Old Comrade and his death will be a sadness to those who knew him. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Eve, in her great loss.

Leslie H. Quilter

It is with great regret that I report the death of former B/Const. 1185 Jeff J. Arnold of 31 Salisbury Lane, Great Ottley, Hertfordshire who died on 27th October, 1989. Jeff served in Palestine from 1944 to 1947 as B/Const. 1185 but I do not know details of his service. There was a funeral service at Luton Crematorium on 6th November at which the Association was represented by John (Angus) Wilson, Dr. L. J. Clark-Wilson, Dave Oliver-Paull, Bill Nicholls, Bob Harkness, Gerry Keown and myself. There were many members of his family and friends and representatives of the local branch of the Royal British Legion. After returning from Palestine Jeff served in the Hertfordshire Constabulary, something which ought to be mentioned here. We offer our deepest sympathy to his family in their loss.

Tom Isted

I wish to record the fact that ex-B/Const. 2820 Norman C. Benn of Borders Lane, Etchingham, East Sussex died on 26th October, 1989. He joined the force in March 1939 and served until June 1943 and spent most of his service in the Motor Transport Section. On leaving Palestine he joined the army and served with 255th Field Security Service in Karachi, Poona and later in Malaya. He was present at the surrender of the Japanese in Kuala Lumpur in 1945. After the war Norman served with the Allied Control Commission in Austria and after that with the Eritrean Police Force where he held the rank of Major. He then formed and was in charge of British Guyana and later Bahrein State Police Forces each time with the rank of superintendant in territories many thousands of miles apart. There is also mention in an old copy of the newsletter that Norman served for a short time in the Canal Zone.

A funeral service took place at Hastings Crematorium on 2nd November attended by family and friends. The Association was represented by John (Angus) Wilson who served with Norman in Bahrein, David Cranston, Gordon Cutbush and Fred Edwards. A floral tribute in the force colours was laid on the coffin. On behalf of us all, I extend deepest sympathy to his widow, Bridget and their son Peter and his wife Janet and leave them in the knowledge that Norman was much loved and respected by all who served with him in Palestine and throughout his distinguished career in many lands.

Fred Edwards

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Archibald S. Laishley on 24th November, 1989. He was 76 and lived at 27 Lydiard Close, Boyatt Wood, Eastleigh, Hampshire. Local newspapers described this Old Comrade as a veteran of the Palestine Police. We do not have details of his force number or date of joining in front of us, but we do have reason to believe that he was of pre-war vintage in terms of service. The publication of his death in a local newspaper appears to have brought in at least one recruit which would have pleased Archie. He is survived by his two daughters, Ann and June, and by his son, William. A funeral service took place at St. Mary's Church, Bishopstoke on 30th November at which the Association was represented by Geoffrey Owen. We offer our sincere and deep felt sympathy to Archie's family in this loss.

Geoffrey Owen

It is with great regret that I report the sudden death of my friend Anthony James Lyster who lived at 81 Binstead Lodge Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight, after returning from Hong Kong. Tony Lyster was only 69 when he died from a heart attack on Wednesday, 24th January, 1990. He served as B/Const. in the Palestine Police after the war and went on to the Malaya Police. In due time he transferred again to the Royal Hong Kong Police from which he retired in 1974 as a superintendent. This is a testimony to his experience and skill as a police officer and the confidence placed in him by his superior officers. His great pal was Jack Martin whose death was reported in Ireland on page 52 of the last issue. It is my belief that Tony had become a lapsee in this Association, but for all that he was always proud that his police career had started in Palestine. I extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Marion and her four children at such a moment. A funeral service took place at the Roman Catholic Church, Ryde, Isle of Wight on Wednesday 31st January at 10.00 a.m. and the Association was represented by Sid and Joan Trattles, Bob and Barbara Johnson, Ivor Baddeley, Ted Batt and Stewart Mackenzie. We offer our sincere condolences to his widow and her family.

Duncan McNeil

I regret to inform Old Comrades of the death of ex-B/Sgt. 180 John Arthur Burn after a long illness. John, known to me as Arthur, was also affectionately known as "Fingers" and was a life member of the Assocation. He was cremated at Southend-on-Sea on 14th December, 1989 and the Service was conducted by the Rev. Canon J. Gore, and was attended by members of his family, the Royal British Legion, and myself representing the P.P.O.C.A.

Arthur was a Geordie, born in South Shields, Co. Durham in 1911, and he spent his boyhood there. In 1931 he married Mabel Pritchard and in 1937 he enlisted in the army, serving in the Royal Artillery. He was wounded in action in 1940 and was afterwards evacuated from Dunkirk. He joined the Palestine Police in January 1944 within the year that Mabel died. While in Palestine he met and married Peggy Crispin who was serving in the WAAF at the time and this ceremony took place at St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem in 1945. They set up their first home in Bethlehem. Following the stand down Arthur transferred to the Eritrea administration and ended up as inspector and bodyguard to the Emperor, Haile Selassie. After the military administration left Eritrea, he joined the Area Locust Control. But in 1956 he returned to the U.K. and he entered the licensing trade in Kent at various addresses until retiring near Peggy's home town at Southend-on-Sea. His final address was Balmoral House, Balmoral Road, Westcliffe-on-Sea, Essex. In his latter years Arthur suffered increasingly from Parkinson's Disease and his wife nursed him until he entered the nursing home shown above. Throughout his adult life Arthur had been a talented pianist and when young had run his own dance band. He played for local pantomimes until three or four years ago. We offer our deepest sympathy to his widow, his son and his daughter and all their families and friends.

Sidney Johnson

We are indebted to Bob White of 236 Buccaneer Bay Road, Cavingbah, N.S.W. 229, Australia for news of the recent death of M. R. A. (Andy) Anderton, C.P.M. Maurice Robert Alfred Anderton held the number 1669 in Palestine and joined the force on 14th November, 1938. He earned his Colonial Police Medal for Gallantry when as 1/B/Sgt. he and B/Const. Goodchild appeared together in the London Gazette vide 25th May, 1948 and were among the last members of the force to be awarded this particular medal. Andy lived at 57 Wentworth Way, Rainham, Essex RM12 9NH and when our informant Bob White visited his old friend as recently as September, 1988 for a ruby wedding celebration, they regarded themselves unofficially as the Rainham Branch. Sadly when Bob returned home in Australia there came a letter saying his old pal had died. He leaves a widow, Joan and a family. Bob states things best and I quote from his letter: "I will miss him not only for his friendship but his link with the U.K. and our great organisation." This says it all. We extend our sympathy to his family and mourn the loss of a very gallant old comrade.

Edward Horne

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STOP PRESS

Will members please note that the telephone S.T.D. Code for numbers in the London area will be amended as from 6th May, 1990. All prefixes will be replaced from 01 to 071 for central areas and from 01 to 081 for other parts of Greater London. For example the telephone number for S. W. (Micky) Hills will be prefixed by 071 while that for the General Secretary will be prefixed by 081.

If you have relatives and friends in the London area it is suggested that if they have not informed you of the change of telephone code, you should request them to let you know before May, 1990. Above all, your London Branch Secretary will not be quite sure of the new code for many of you until you let him know.

SHORT NOTICES OF DEATH

We are sorry to learn that Muriel, dear wife of Bill Mulcock of 67a Blandford Road, Teddington, Middlesex died back in December, 1987. We did not know at the time, but now over two years later things must still be very difficult for Bill and we offer our sincere condolences.

Sadly we report the death of former B/Const. Robert A. Bedell who died at the latter end of last year. He served most of his time from 1946 until the termination of the mandate at Sarona. On returning home he joined The Metropolitan Police and was mostly in the West End of London until discharged on medical grounds in 1973. He was not a member of this association but his departure will be acknowledged with regret. We send condolences to his friends and family.

We are deeply sorry to learn of the death of Associate Robert Williams, son of the late Norman Williams, a former secretary of the old Hertfordshire branch. Robert had been very ill with kidney damage and required constant treatment and in the end massive surgery that proved unavailing and he died in June, 1989. He evidently bore this misfortune with patience and fortitude until the end. His mother, Barbara, has remarried since the death of her first husband and she must be stricken by this turn of events. Many of her old friends inlcuding Mrs. Ann Stratton, John (Jebel) Druce, Fred Harradine and Micky Hills ask Barbara to accept our deepest sympathy at this late stage.

We learn from Charles Greenstreet that we have a duty to publish the death of Mrs. Margot Taylor, widow of former B/Const. Alan Taylor who died in December 1985 – N.L.142. This lady lived at 37 Gaunts Road, Pawlett, nr. Bridgewater, Somerset, and she passed away during October, 1989. She is survived by a son who lives in the U.S.A., to whom we send our deepest sympathy.

We have all been shocked to learn of the sudden and totally unexpected death of Mrs. Irene Hargreaves whose picture was printed in this newsletter last September. She had not been well and had arrived in London from her warm and sunny home in Mauritius where she lived with her husband Harry Hargreaves. While undergoing treatment in London she had been under the watchful guard of Micky Hills, then she was away home, sadly to die just before Christmas. We offer our deepest sympathy to Harry for the loss of his dear wife and companion and offer our condolences to him and all his many friends.

A report from Phil Hardisty reveals that we must announce the death of former B/Const. John Vivian Organ who died peacefully following heart problems at his home at Hillcrest, Natal, R.S.A. This event took place on 24th August, 1989. He was only 63. Details of Johnny's career in Palestine are not known, beyond the fact that he was of 1946/7 vintage, but he is thought to have served in the Haifa district. On leaving Palestine he joined the Kenya police for a time. Our sympathy goes out to his wife Obbie (?) and their sons, Malcolm and Desmond.

We must thank N. B. Childs of Derby for news of the death of his father-in-law, ex-B/Const. 1041 Richard Stanley Genever who died on 20th October, 1989 at the age of 78. Not a great deal is known of Richard's career in Palestine beyond the fact that he joined 27th August, 1938. But his name has cropped up many times in the course of editing this newsletter and it is clear he became very well known to his generation of recruitment. We have written to Mr. Childs and extend our deepest sympathy to all his family.

We have a further sad duty to report the death of former comrade and colleague Ray Bodger of Beaminster, Dorset, who died at the age of 68. He was not a member of the Association and we are indebted to Fred Wilkins of Solihull for keeping us informed. Our condolences are extended to all members of Ray's family and his friends.

Another Old Comrade who has passed away recently is ex-B/Const. 2494 Cyril T. Coverley of 1 Denton Cottages, Gonerby Hill Foot, Grantham, Lincolnshire. He died on 13th December, 1989. Cyril joined the force in June 1939 until June 1945 and served mainly in Nablus district. A funeral service took place at Grantham Crematorium on 19th December and we extend our deepest sympathy to all members of his family and his friends.

Sadly we report that Mrs. Vi Dines, dear wife of Dicky Dines, died on Sunday, 26th November, 1989, and we offer our deepest sympathy to Dicky in this moment of terrible loss.

We are sorry to learn of the death of Mrs. Eleanor Cork of 67 Roman Way, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire. She died on 24th December, 1989 in her 81st year. Eleanor was the widow of 2/B/Sgt. 895 Nelson Frederick Cork who was killed in a tragic motor accident on 22nd October, 1938 near Hadera. He is buried in Jaffa Road Cemetery, Haifa. Her son John is an associate member of the O.C.A. Eleanor would be known to many of our ladies as she lived in Palestine until her husband's death. We last saw her at memorial service at St. Paul's Cathedral when the memorial plaque was unveiled. We now offer our sincere sympathy to John.

We regret to announce the death of B/Const. Henry W. Pickering whose last recorded address was 44 Victoria Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. He died at the end of September, 1989. After leaving Palestine, Henry served in the Kenya police and we have to thank another P.P. and Kenya man, Frank Ormsby for this information. Our deepest sympathy is extended to all family and friends.

News has arrived from Shan Wilson of Cornwall of the sudden death of Eddie Summers of 4 Woodland Close, Lanivet, near Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 5JF on 26th January, 1990. Details of his service in Palestine are not to hand at time of going to press except that he is thought to have been a member of the mounted branch. Our sincere and deepest sympathy goes to his family and friends in a tragic loss. To the rest of us, one more old comrade dies regretted.

We regret to learn of the death in the Daily Telegraph of Mrs Eileen May Darling, widow of the late Harold Darling, superintendent of police in charge of our marvellous signals section in Palestine. She suddenly died on 29th January and the funeral service took place on 2nd February. We extend our deepest sympathy to her son Richard (associate member) and Joyce in their loss.

Over the years the following Old Comrades have passed away without the association knowing. In their memory we name them now: Former B/Const. 2789 A. B. Conquer of Kent, B/Const. 1084 W. J. Hayes of Liverpool, B/Const. 1225 T. Hill of Edgware, Middlesex who died 13th June, 1975 and R. W. Lapsley who died in Jamaica in the mid 1940s. Their respective deaths are regretted by all Old Comrades and friends.

We are indebted to Mrs. Jill Albiston for news about the death of her father, the late Kenneth C. Brickwood (former R.A.F. regiment in Palestine) who died on 27th November, 1989 and whose funeral service took place at Bracknell Crematorium on 4th December. Mrs. Albiston reminds us of the fact that her father was always very proud to have been a Donor Member (No. 114) of this Association. We lament his passing.

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GREETINGS SECTION

MULCOCK, Bill – 67a Blandford Road, Teddington, Middlesex (see Changes of Address – Ed.) sends greetings and regards to all members of the P.P.O.C.A. who served with him in Palestine, Ceylon, Cyprus and Tripolitania with special regards to Mrs. Elsie Webb. Good health and happy new year to you all.

CUNNINGHAM, James – (Formerly of Kenya Police), Lord Dowains Court, Moffat, Dumfries sends greetings to Ted Wells, Phil Hardisty and all former P.P. who knew him in Kenya. (We must thank Lew Boffin for this entry – Ed.)

SHENTON, Bill – 28 Willow Park, Pontefract, West Yorkshire WF8 2SX sends greetings to all his former comrades, although not in the best of health himself.

BRENNAN, Mrs. Ann – 8 Notgrove Avenue, Cotswald, Port Elizabeth 6045, R.S.A. sends best wishes to all members of the Association – too numerous to name individually.

UPFOLD, George – 4 Western Road, Selsey, West Sussex PO20 0JP sends greetings and regards to: Freddy Langford, Nigel Ward and many others with whom he had amusing and pleasant times in Ajami, Mansheih and Ramleh and special regard to Sydney Burr despite the fact that they played rugby together at school but never played against each other in the force.

DOBSON, Harry – 11 Laane Avenue, Rosanna, Melbourne 3084, Victoria, Australia sends greetings and salaams to some of his former comrades and names: Tony Gracie, Dick Renshaw, Ron Platt, Hank Summers. The last three served with him on the mounted section of the M.P.S.F. under the late Colonel Medlock.

ASHMORE, E. T. (Ernie) – 37 Newburgh Crescent, The Cape, Warwick CV34 5EE (Is that postcode correct? – Ed.) sends regards to John Foster and Dougy Brain whom he describes as one of the most helpful persons he knows.

DAVIES, Noel – Unit 112, 26 Herman Avenue, Huntsville, Ontario P0A 1K0, Canada sends regards to all M & N Signals 1937 who are still with us. Also to Doug Fairfoul, Harry Russell, Percy Cleaver, Archie Leadbetter, Bob Bathgate, Hutch Hutchinson, Tom Harbison, Buck Reeves, Pasha Lamond, Spider Swain and Malcolm Slay.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our members continue to receive honours and awards for services rendered to the community and congratulations are due to two who have been brought to our notice recently.

Firstly to D. L. (Don) Long (former 2868 in Palestine) of 3 Sloborough Close, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 5RF who was made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) in the Birthday Honours list of 1989. He was invested in late autumn and must be very proud of this signal honour. Secondly Bill Pilkington, D.C.M. of 87 Old Meadow Lane, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 8LA (a former A.S.P. in Palestine for a short period) received a well deserved British Empire Medal (B.E.M.) and this was promulgated in the recent New Year Honours list. Bill is a man of many parts and apart from his short attachment to the Palestine Police, was a soldier (D.C.M., Norwegian campaign), St. John's Ambulance Brigade Staff Officer, professional actor, writer, broadcaster and charities fund raiser. Hearty congratulations.

Congratulations are due to Len and Doreen Jordan of Trevellen, Rectory Hill, Castel, Guernsey, C.I. who celebrated their 50th (Golden) Wedding Anniversary on 1st February, 1990. Hearty congratulations from us all.

MOVEMENTS AND THREATS OF MOVEMENTS

Charles and Tina Eadon-Clarke went off the Western Australia map in January 1990 (-ish). They cruised around the Pacific Islands. With Charles' well known energy, from which we must conclude he lives on shredded wheat, do not be surprised if he discovers a long lost shipwrecked P.P. and forms a branch in the Ellice Islands or Manihiki Atoll or wherever. Just let the G.S. know when it happens.

Tom and June Harbison have given notice of their intention to leave for Perth, Western Australia on 3rd May, 1990 and then to spend about six months crossing over and/or going round the edge of Australia to visit Sydney, Melbourne and returning to Perth. Now this is a fair warning of agreeable disturbance for those local residents who think themselves immunised against P.P. visitation. May they enjoy a marvellous holiday.

Paddy Erskine is not only planning to wander off somewhere else. At time of writing he is actually there. He has a six month address (January until further

notice) at P.O. Box 242, Torrak, Victoria, Australia. So don't look for him at 32 Lancaster Mews, London W2 3QE because he is not there. We hope he barges into some members of Victoria branch. In spite of great distances they seem a pretty active lot. But then we do not know where Torrak actually is, so it might be difficult.

———

The estimable Aubrey Nye of Broom Knoll, Judith Avenue, Knodishall, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 1UY plans to invade the Middle East this spring, if his health holds out. Although not as fit as he himself would wish, he hopes to answer that migratory call common to many of us and drop in on Israel. In fact he may be there at this moment, or even to have returned from the place. Aubrey has kindly offered to do a little research for us in Nablus and Safed if he gets the chance. One way or the other, we trust he will return safely to his native shores.

SICK PARADE

COLLINGE, Major J. Stanley – 7 Asker Lane, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3FY, a Donor Member of some consequence sustained an accident in his garden which has resulted in two broken wrists, two black eyes and cuts about the face. We do trust he is soon very much recovered and all his parts mended.

SMITH, Wally – 21 Grantham Bank, Barcombe, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 5DJ has been far from well. This former Depot Instructor fell and broke a hip way back in October last and we are grateful to Jack Ritchie for this information. The truth is, Wally has not been all that fit in recent months so all his old friends and comrades will wish him a greatly improved 1990.

PRICE, The Rev. Dewi – 25 Longfellow Road, Worcester WR3 8DY. We are sorry to learn the Dewi Price is not fit at the present time but have no doubt that he will climb back to his former ebullient self very soon. Although new to our circle, he has shown himself to be a true Palestine Policeman in spirit and resolve, two qualities that must surely improve his health.

WADDICOR, J. C. (Jack) – 26 Limes Avenue, Darwen, Lancashire BB3 2SG has, or had, shingles we heard just before Christmas. This will not do at all. Shingles is a nasty problem and it is to be hoped this former Nabulsi will be fully restored to be fit to ride patrol again in the very near future.

SLAY, Malcolm – Rigside, Little Compton, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire GL56 0RR. Malcolm was taken into hospital at short notice before Christmas and it is to be hoped is now very much improved. We do not want any more alarms of this kind and sincerely hope this old comrade will enjoy better health in the shortest possible time. A further report at the end of January suggests he is "out and about". Splendid news.

GREENSTREET, Charles – Ravenscroft, Staplehay, Trull, Taunton, Somerset TA3 7EZ has not been at all well last year but thanks to Ken Harrison we

heard too that he was back home from hospital. This is all some time ago by now but we all trust this well known former comrade is very much improved. We are also aware that is dear wife, Kathleen, is not all that well either, so these two have our joint good wishes.

ELGAR, George – 63 Castlenau, Flat 2, Barnes, London SW13 9RT is for the time being in care at Hampton Hill until such time as his dear wife is out of hospital recovering from her own health problems. We all hope George will soon be back in his own home and offer him cheery and comradely greetings to see him through for the time being.

ELGAR, Mrs. (Wife of George) – 63 Castlenau, Flat 2, Barnes, London SW13 9RT is at time of going to press in hospital at Roehampton because of a bypass operation which is heavy surgery. We understand she is getting on fine and all old comrades wish her a speedy recovery.

HALL, Norman O.B.E. – Calle Bahia 23, 6-A Los Arenales Del Sol, Alicante, Spain, has suffered a heart attack unfortunately. This was last September and although still poorly we understand "Nobby" is showing some improvement which of course is good news. Best wishes to him from us all and we hope he is soon fully recovered.

PAINE, G. W. – 44 Belmore Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN22 8BL (former B/Const. 2292) is still waiting to go into hospital for a hernia operation at time of going to press. We trust that by the time he reads this his operation will have been successful and that he will be feeling very much better.

BREEN, J. J. – 9 Thornhill Walk, Wootton Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 1JH. Our John made an appearance at the Blunsdon House Dinner-Dance in October last, having made excellent progress after a terrible accident. "It was nice to see John back", states Lew Boffin, the branch secretary, and it's a case of "So say all of us".

TURNER, R. V. F. (Roy) and (Joan) – Waylands, Shotover Corner, Uffington, Oxfordshire SN7 7RH. Both Roy and Joan have been "under the weather" recently although we do not have more details. Whatever it is, may it all be in the past tense by the time they read these columns, with a full recovery.

RANDALL, F. A. (Fred) – 21 Elm Gardens, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL8 6RX has definitely been laid low and has been involved with hospital treatment. Although we do not have details of the part or parts of the body department concerned, all old friends of this fine supporter of the former Hertfordshire branch will wish Fred well again very soon and back on parade.

WILSON, J. W. (Angus) – 10 Marshmoor Crescent, North Mymms, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL9 7HZ. This former B/Inspector is also a Hertfordshire man and at time of going to press news came in that he had suffered a stroke. It is also to be hoped that by the time he reads this he will be very much better.

REGAN, Tom – Unit 3, 14 Hatfield Street, North Balwyn, Melbourne, Victoria 3104. This old comrade is reported to be a glutton for punishment and has had to return to hospital for another "op" after his recent bypass operation. We hope all is now very much better and will he kindly stop alarming his friends in this way.

COXSEDGE, Joan Mrs. – 8 Leicester Street, North Balwyn, Melbourne, Victoria 3104. News is to hand that this lady is now out and about after a spell in hospital. We quote Taht el Taht No. 8 (November 1989) a well known broadsheet of the southern hemisphere. Pray get better soon, dear lady.

SHENTON, Bill – 28 Willow Park, Pontefract, West Yorkshire WF8 2SX has been in hospital and intensive care at that. He endured an operation but reports as recently as January suggests he is greatly improved, which is what all his old friends and comrades wish to hear.

MAXWELL, Irene Mrs. – 56 Ambassador Road, Leicester LE5 4EP, widow of the late Alex Maxwell is at present suffering from a broken hip which is the result of a fall. Not very nice and we all hope the plaster is off by the time she reads this.

WARD, Edith Mrs. – Address believed to be 13 Aspatria Avenue, Blackhall, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS27 4EG, and widow of the late Joe Ward is very much below par at the present time and is reduced to a large degree of immobility. All old friends wish her every comfort and peace of mind.

MAKINSON, W. – 34 Frith Avenue, Delamere, Northwich, Cheshire underwent a major operation just over 12 months back involving a heart bypass. From a recent letter we are glad to say he appears to have got over it and old friends will hope he continues on the up and up.

HOWETH, W. (Ginger) – 32 Etal Crescent, Primrose, Jarrow, Tyne and Wear had a lung removed as long as five years since and is confined to a wheelchair at the present time. All old comrades, particularly those in H.O.P., in those wild and dangerous times before the stand down will hope that Ginger enjoys the best quality of life possible in the circumstances.

HARRIS, C. F. – 95 Bordars Road, Hanwell, London W7 1AL has we hear by telephone suffered from a heart attack a little while back. We also have a note that he might be the youngest member of the O.C.A. True or false, we all wish him very much better and a return to parade in the shortest possible time.

NEW MEMBER

5171 MORRISON, A. G., ex-B/Const. 2121 – 58 Goomalling Road, Northam, Western Australia (no postcode supplied).

REJOINING MEMBERS

1728 GARBUTT, T. E., ex-B/Const. 2499 – 393 Apperley Road, Apperley Bridge, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD10 0PL.

1702 JONES, D. W., ex-B/M/Sgt. 1231 – 3 The Village, Trewidland, St. Keyne, Liskeard, Cornwall PL14 4SR.

101 TRUEMAN, A. W., ex-B/M/Const. 3020 – 274 Joel Street, Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 2PY.

NEW DONOR MEMBERS

D.200 TURTON, D. and Mrs. J., 3 Oakfield Lodge, Church Green, Witney, Oxfordshire OX8 6AQ.

D.201 WHITING, M. J., 12 Tatlings Road, Steventon, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX13 6AT.

D.202 LIPOVSKY, G., 70 Clymer Street, Apt. 12J, Brooklyn, New York 11211, U.S.A.

D.203 WILDING, F., "Inglefield", 8 Thelwall New Road, Thelwall, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 2JF.

D.204 JOHNSON, W. E., 53 Towyn Road, Pensarn, Abergele, Clwyd, North Wales LL22 7RA.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

COX, K., 25 Goodman Crescent, Streatham, London SW2 4NR (amended address – postcode added).

DAY, H., 17 Glenville Road, Mount Evelyn, Victoria 3796, Australia (from 27 Fernhill Road).

de MEZA, J. M., Apartado 621, 8507 Portimao Codex, Portugal (from Urb. Villa Rosa, Lote 11-R/C-C).

BIDMEAD, Mrs. M. D., 7 Wamberal Gardens, Spencer Street, Mamberal, New South Wales 2260, Australia (from 18 Blue View Crescent, Terrigal).

BROWN, Mrs. E., "Parkwood", Milton Abbas, Blandford Forum, Dorset (no postcode supplied), (from "Crincombe", Milton Abbas).

CARNEY, H. B., 46 Westmoreland Road, Barnes, London SW13 9RY (from 29 Castlenau SW13 9RS).

CHEQUER, C., 23 Rochester Gate, 214 High Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 1JG (from 21 Sydney Road, Gillingham).

CRAIG, J. M., Flat 19, Preston Trust Home, Preston, Telford, Shropshire TF6 6DQ (from Flat 21 – former postcode TF6 6EQ incorrect).

DAVIES, W. N., Unit 112, 26 Herman Avenue, Huntsville, Ontario, Canada P0A 1K0 (from P.O. Box 2044).

DONALD, W. A., c/o 16 Mountview Pass, Rush Park, Newtonwabbey, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland BT37 9QB (from Edmonton, Canada T5N 3P2).

ELMES, A. I., 5 Pavillion Close, Eagles Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP20 1NB (from 21 Lynmer Close, Aylesbury).

ERSKINE, A. C., c/o 32 Lancaster Mews, London W2 3QE (from Victoria, Australia).

GARSIDE, Mrs. F., c/o Sian Garside, 6 County House, Ordnance Road, Woolwich, London SE18 3SG (from c/o I.M.S. Ltd., Abbey Orchard Street, London).

GILL, R. S., 33a Bergvliet Road, Bergvliet, Cape 7945, R.S.A. (from 33 Bergvliet Road).

KANIS, A. G., Calle Avenc 1, 46760 La Drova-Barx, Valencia, Spain (from Calle Avenc 1, Drova 46025 Barig).

LEGGETT, J. H., "Southview", 1 Hamtun Crescent, Totton, Southampton, Hampshire SO4 3PB (from Westwood Road, Southampton).

MORRISON, D. K., 2/560 Grange Road, Henley Beach, South Australia 5022 (from 32 Hazel Terrace).

MULCOCK, W. H. S., 67a Blandford Road, Teddington, Middlesex (no postcode supplied), (from Churchdown, Gloucestershire).

RODRICK, R. H., Orchard Cottage, Greenlands Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 7JU (from 36 Oaken Road).

SALTHOUSE, T., 14 Glebe Court, East Road, Lancaster, Lancashire LA1 3EE (from Morcambe, Lancashire).

SANDY, Mrs. B., 5 West End, Melksham, Wiltshire SN12 6HJ (from Bathwick, Somerset).

SYMMONS, Mrs. K., Room 18, Tanglewood, Louth Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire (from 1 Ancaster Court, The Wing, Horncastle).

TURNER, Mrs. A. M., Penlee Nursing Home, Weston-super-Mare, Avon (no postcode supplied), (from 495 Locking Road).

ERRATA

Reference to newsletter 156, page 59 and newsletter 157, page 66 complete new address for Chapman should read:

CHAPMAN, Capt. G. (Rtd.) ex-B/Const. 3594, 1641 Dominion Road, Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada L2A 5M4 (correct postcode now shown).

TAYLOR, E. B., 7 Dorset Gardens, Brighton, East Sussex. Amended address from N.L. 154. Brighton is in East Sussex, not West Sussex as published.

TRACERS

A further list of Members, Donors and Associates who have gone off our map is shown below. Anyone with information, please contact the General Secretary.

ALGAR, J., Last known adress, 29 Plum Tree Lane, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.

ARCHIBALD, A. J., 53 Ratcliffe Terrace, Edinburgh.

BALLARD, L., 16 Manorgate Road, Kingston, Surrey.

CAMPBELL, W., 40 Polworth Avenue, Brightons, Falkirk FK2 0LH.

CHARLES, W. B., 13 Warren Park, Warlingham, Surrey.

Those who have 'disappeared' since the last newsletter was posted are:

BEAL, G M., formerly of Budleigh Salterton, South Devon and Pietermaritzburg, Natal, R.S.A.

DRAPER, K. J., formerly of 17 Yethonga Avenue, The Entrance, New South Wales, Australia 2261.

PLUNKETT, A., formerly of RR., No.4, Uxbridge, Ontario, Canada LOC IKO.

Any information of the whereabouts of any of the above named old comrades should be sent to the General Secretary if you please.

Duggie Fairfoul of 84 Coral Road, Bloubergrand 7443, R.S.A. is seeking the whereabouts of Thomas Edwin Clunie, C.B.E., Q.P.M., an ex-A.S.P. in Palestine who after a short spell in Barbados went on to serve in Hong Kong and ended up as Commissioner of Police in the Bahamas. He is a life member of the Association but has never subscribed to the newsletter levy and his present whereabouts are not known. Duggie feels he hailed from Yorkshire. Can this enquiry be transferred to a Yorkshire branch detective as Tom may have had homing instincts to settle there. Another for whom Duggie seeks a location is V. E. (Vic) Treherne, no. 833 in the force, who left around 1947 with the rank of inspector and is thought to hail from Highgate, London. Any help will be appreciated.

A. C. (Paddy) Erskine, temporary address P.O. Box 242, Toorak, Victoria, Australia (no postcode – Ed.) wishes to put out a tracer for C. J. D. Sykes, believed to stand for Christopher James Dugdale Sykes. He was 1945/46 vintage in Jerusalem.

We have an enquiry for the whereabouts of former police lieutenant 563 B. A. Hathaway, Malaya police, although he may have died because his medals appeared on the market. It is believed he was formerly in the Palestine Police. Can anyone confirm this please?

ERRATUM

In issue 156, page 63, reference was made to a tracer put out by Bob Bathgate for the whereabouts of Bob Barnard, etc. Ian Proud writes to suggest that the missing person might well be Bob Barnden. As to this he might well be correct.

SOUKH NEWS

Please note that the following items are now in stock: tie tacks with pin (as previously supplied), cuff links and lapel badges. Details of prices are shown in the stock price list adjacent to this notice. In each case the badge shown on these items is like our cap badge and together they make a pleasing set.

I have been hoping that for the ladies the following items, which have been on order, will have been delivered in time to list in our stock list in this issue. I think they will be delivered by the middle of February, so I have shown them on our stock list. They are: spur brooches (which everyone calls wishbone brooches) £5.25, post 35p.

You will notice that the tankards are now deleted from the stock list. This is an item that will not be re-ordered because of the cost now demanded by the suppliers and the soukh cannot be expected to carry such a heavy financial commitment tied up in stock for years on end. It does not make sense. Otherwise there are one or two modest increases in price, such as the ever-popular wall plaques, which are hand painted and now stand at the very reasonable price of £12.00.

When ordering items would all those loveable members who seek items from the soukh remember the cost of postage. It is quite an important item and apart from extra work it can be embarrassing for both customer and supplier if we have to remind you about it. After all, it is only a few extra piastres and we do aim to please.

Len Sexton

THE SOUKH

Every Member of the P.P.O.C.A. is expected to have in his possession, for wear on appropriate occasions, some distinctive article or articles of utility or sartorial adornment which will identify him as having served with the finest body of men the Colonial Service has ever known – the Palestine Police.

The following articles, AVAILABLE ONLY TO PAID-UP MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION, may be obtained at the prices stated. As we have no staff to deal with credit sales or C.O.D., please send remittance with order. Members are requested to include in the remittance sufficient to cover postage, by surface mail or air-mail, whichever mode of despatch they prefer. Please check latest newsletter for prices.

THIS LIST CANCELS ALL LISTS PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED

		U.K. post/ packing
Ties, all silk 3¼″ × 54″	£5.70	30p
Ties, polyester	£3.50	30p
Cravats, mens	£6.50	35p
Blazer Badges, silver-wire	£6.50	35p
Wall Plaques, hand-painted	£12.00	90p
Car Badges (radiator fitting)	£11.00	90p
Lapel Badges, silver and enamel	£2.15	30p
Car Key-Rings with O.C.A. crest (leather holder)	£1.75	35p
Blazer Buttons, large	£1.10	20p
Blazer Buttons, small	£1.10	20p
Windscreen Stickers, O.C.A. crest	30p	20p
Wool Scarves, association colours	£11.00	90p
Tea spoons, chrome	£4.25	35p
Cuff links	£6.25	35p
Tie clips	£3.15	35p
New:		
Ladies' silk square	£16.00	35p
Ladies wishbone brooches	£5.25	35p
Cassette, The Holy City and Edited address of The President (taken from A.R.D. 1984)	£2.50	40p
Christmas Cards with P.P. motif	£1.10 for 5	30p
Navy blue sweaters with white P.P. motif (badge) (sizes 34, 38) lamb's wool	cost £15.00	£1.30
Navy blue sweaters with white P.P. only motif (sizes 40,42,44,46) acrylic	£13.50	£1.30

N.B. – Orders for remittances for the above articles should be sent to the Soukh Master who is Len Sexton, Flat 42, Barbara Brosnan Court, 46 Grove End Road, St. John's Wood, London NW8 9NP. Telephone: 071-289 0041. Cheques and postal orders to made out to the P.P.O.C.A.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1990		
March 17th	Midlands Branch DINNER/DANCE	Moat House Hotel Kenilworth
April 7th	Yorkshire Branch DINNER/DANCE	Shirley Heights Suite York Racecourse
May 12th	East Midlands Branch DINNER/DANCE	The Swallow Hotel South Normanton
May 26th	Merseyside and District Branch ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE	The Crest Hotel Liverpool
July 29th	East Anglia Branch LUNCHEON	Caistor Country Club Norwich
August 25th	Scottish Branch ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE	The City Mills Hotel Perth
September 22nd/23rd	South Eastern Counties Branch ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE and Long Weekend	Coniston Hotel Sittingbourne
October 6th	ASSOCIATION A.G.M. 3.15 p.m.	The Cardinal Westminster SW1
October 6th	ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION DINNER 6.30 p.m.	Conference Centre Westminster SW1
October 7th	CENOTAPH PARADE and SERVICE 10.30 a.m.	Whitehall London SW1
October 27th	South Midlands Branch ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE	Blunsdon House Hotel Blunsdon, Nr. Swindon
December 8th	Southern and Western Counties Branch ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE	Courtlands Hotel Bournemouth

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1984		
March 17th	Midlands Branch DINNER/DANCE	Moat House Hotel Kenilworth
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Printed by Hillary Press Ltd., 75 Church Road, Hendon, London, N.W.4.